

Weekly Newsletter

March 30, 2025

# Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Manna from Heaven by Sabado Watanabe

# W E L C O M E

## Visitors:

- If you would like to be added to our email list, please go to [firstchurchoakland.org](http://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

*Little Melody*

Welcome

*Florence Price*

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks to the Lord.

**All: Call on God's holy name.**

One: Sing praises to our God.

**All: Tell of God's wonderful works.**

One: The Lord offers bread from heaven to satisfy our hunger.

**All: God issues water from solid rock to quench our thirst.**

One: Give thanks to the Lord.

**All: Let everything that draws breath praise God.**

Gathering Prayer

One: Guide our way, Caretaker God, in the wilderness of our lives. Offer us the bread of heaven, that we may taste your Spirit and be nourished in body and soul. Reveal your presence among us and show us the tender mercies of your love. In joy and jubilation. We pray.

**All: Amen.**

*Please rise in body or spirit*  
Song

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*  
*Glory to God #396*

## **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**

One: Forgive us, Mighty God, when we doubt your strength. Assure us, Faithful God, when we doubt your constant presence. Renew us, Loving God, when we neglect to love others as you have loved us. Empower us with your strength, and encourage us with your steadfast love. Unite us through the power of your Holy Spirit, that we might live with a faith that honors you, and abide with a hope that encourages others to know your love and grace.

**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, you who seek the Lord.  
Count your blessings, not your troubles.  
For in acts of gratitude, you will find 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.

*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 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 16. 2 - 15 NRSV*

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your

complaining against the Lord . For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord , for he has heard your complaining.’ ” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’ ”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

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

*Rev. Joel will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon.*

Song

*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

Invitation to the Offering

*Glory to God #523*

In the wilderness of our lives, God’s grace is like water flowing from a rock, transforming arid desert into flowing rivers. In thanksgiving for God’s mercy, let us give from our abundance as we collect today’s offering.

*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*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Glory to God #607*

### Prayer for the Offering

One: Gracious God, you provide bread in the wilderness and life-giving waters in the desert. We offer you our thanks and praise. May our gifts and offerings bless your world—that all may be blessed, and all may find purpose and passion, through Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### Invitation to Community Life

## **SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH**

### Song

*He's Done So Much for Me*

*African American Heritage Hymnal #511*

### 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 TODAY**

**Pastor:** Rev. Joel Mackey

**Liturgist:** Maggie Harmon

**Music Director:** Jake Fontana

**Song Leader:** Linda Carter

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Godly Play:** Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

**Fellowship Time Refreshments:** Nina and Eric Lapachet

## 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](mailto:benb@firstchurchoakland.org) or call me at 925-285-1068). Our work day is set for **TODAY** after coffee hour.

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

## Join PICO for a Conversation with Father Greg Boyle, April 29 at 5 p.m.



PICO is hosting an in-depth conversation with the beloved Father Grey Boyle of Homeboy Industries. This will be a forum for inspiration, healing and collective action in today's divided times. To participate, please ask Pastor Matt for the zoom registration link.



## Maundy Thursday Seder April 17

Please join Maggie and Chris Harmon to celebrate the Passover on Maundy Thursday, April 17th from 5:30-8pm. We will use a traditional haggadah format (ritual liturgy) that was recently published by Maggie to explore more deeply what Passover meant for Jesus, his disciples, and followers of Christ in the world today.

Limited space so please respond if you would like to attend to Maggie at 510-688-8595 or [maggieharmon@me.com](mailto:maggieharmon@me.com).

# 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.

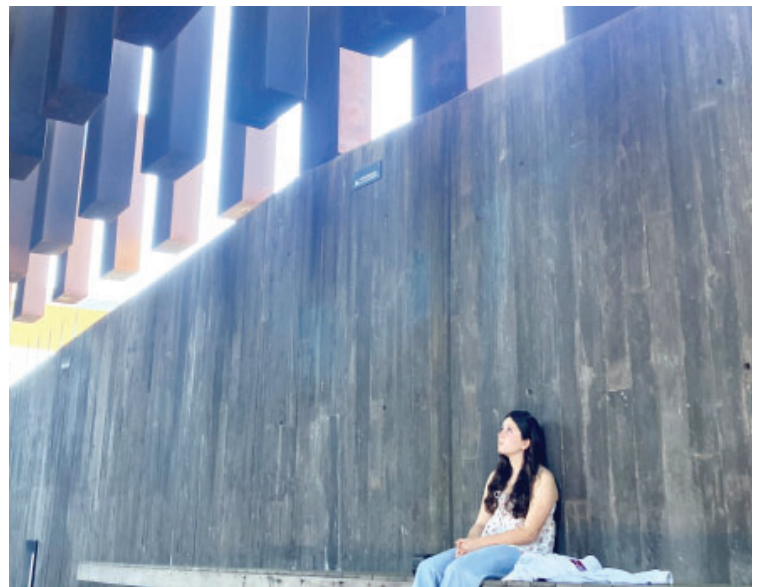
I was inspired by the youth who were singing and dancing even while they were being arrested and taken to jail. Middle School and High School students taken to jail for protesting racial segregation. I wonder if I was alive during this time and if I was their ages, 'what would I have done?' Would I be 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 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 Ekwoke, 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 – Diane Hill – Chris and Christine Kovach, Katherine – Hazel and Isabella Seiden-Miller – Matt Spowart Leo Sullivan – Chris Weber



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**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



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**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



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**Monrovia Prinz**

Youth Member Relations

Eva Chandler – Micah Ogden – Myles Ogden  
Cole Provost – Carter Provost



## 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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### 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

Derrick Polk, Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu,  
Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine  
Irmiter, Pam Prinz

### Church Staff

**Rev. Matt Prinz**, Pastor

[matt@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:matt@firstchurchoakland.org)

510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

**Rev. Joel Mackey**, Parish Associate

[joelmackey@comcast.net](mailto:joelmackey@comcast.net)

**Jake Fontana**, Music Director

[jake@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:jake@firstchurchoakland.org)

**Micheline La Mont**, Community Relationships Manager

[micheline@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:micheline@firstchurchoakland.org)

510.488.3810

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

**Gus Lopez**, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

**Erick Bevington**, Treasurer

[erick@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:erick@firstchurchoakland.org)

**Joan Clerk**, Bookkeeper

[joan@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:joan@firstchurchoakland.org)

### 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](http://firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings)**