

Weekly Newsletter

April 6, 2025

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



The Lost Sheep
by Daniel Bonnell

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

Sheep May Safely Graze

Welcome

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

One: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows us and seeks us out.

All: Great is our joy as we are found in Christ.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of heaven and earth, bless us with your mercy and grace. Enter our hearts and make us holy. Be our Shepherd and guide us in your ways, that we might not wander alone. Hear our cries and gather us to yourself, that we may be one with each other, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us, verses 1-2

Song

Glory to God #187

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: God of heaven and earth, be with us in our need. Though we often go astray, we seek your love and mercy. Be our Shepherd and guide our ways, for we are lost and afraid and weary of wandering. We long to be welcomed home in your gracious mercy.

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

By God's mercy, we are forgiven and loved. 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 for Family Worship.

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.

Song

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

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.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 23
Adapted Nan Merrill

O God, you are my shepherd,
I shall not want;
You bring me to green pastures
for rest
and lead me beside still waters
renewing my spirit,
You restore my soul.
You lead me in the path of
goodness
to follow Love's way.
Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow and
of death,
I am not afraid;
For you are with me;
your rod and your staff
they guide me,
they give me strength
and comfort.
You prepare a table before me
In the presence of all my fears,
You bless me with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy will
follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the heart
of God forever.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message - The Parable of the Good Shepherd

R E S P O N S E to the W O R D

Wondering

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Song for Preparing the Table

*Come to the Table of Grace
Glory to God #507*

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

*Who Do You Say I Am?
by Greg Murai*

Invitation to follow Jesus - Baptism

To Parents:

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your child? **I do.**

Do you promise, through prayer and example to support and encourage Grace to be a faithful Christain? **I do.**

To Congregation:

Do you as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Grace by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful member of his church? **We do.**

Invitation to Community Life

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Song

Lead Me, Guide Me

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

1) Refrain: Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

3) Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

2) I am weak, and I need Thy strength
and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

4) I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain

Benediction

One: Like a lost sheep, you are found by the Good Shepherd.
Like a lost coin, you are gathered up by God.
Be a good shepherd to those who are lonely.
Be a good home for those longing to belong.
God in the untiring goodness of God,
The unending patience of Christ,
And the infinite peace of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher/Storyteller: Di Pagel

Liturgist: Joshua Day

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Julia Marquez

Seeking Easter Bunny Helpers



We are planning our annual Easter Egg hunt on the lawn on Easter Sunday, April 20th to the delight of all children and many adults. We would like your help to have an abundance of candy-filled eggs to hide.

Please drop off candy-filled plastic eggs to Pastor Matt's office any time before April 20. No nuts.

Join us for Good Friday Worship April 18 at 6 p.m.



Please come and join us as we reflect on the final hours of Jesus' life.



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.

Sharing our Hospitality: Sign up for Easter Sunday Refreshments



We anticipate many guests for our Easter Sunday Service on April 20th. Let's show them our hospitality by providing a nice spread of refreshments for our fellowship time.

If you can bring a baked good, fruit or other snack for Easter Sunday, please let Julia Marquez know. jmarquez@fbcl-visa.com.

What is Stewardship?

By Maggie Harmon

It's probably easier to answer what stewardship is not than to answer what exactly stewardship is: stewardship is not writing a check or dropping cash in the offering plate. That is giving money to support the ministry of a congregation and to build the church in the world today because the world operates in a financial model whether we like it or not. Giving financially is important, it allows us to engage in ways we could not if we didn't have those resources. But it is not stewardship.

Stewardship is much bigger than a financial gift, indeed it is an enormous responsibility given to us by God in Genesis. "Stewardship" is defined as the 'careful and thoughtful management of something entrusted to one's care.' When God gave us "dominion" (as it was translated many years ago) we were not being given unbridled

control, we were being entrusted with the care of something precious, creation, the very reflection of God in our world.

To be a steward is to understand the role and responsibility of who we are in this place and time. How are we caring for this campus where we worship? How are we caring for the people who come into the building to worship, eat, work, learn? How are we caring for ourselves and our bodies, for indeed we are precious creations of God that need care. Giving financially is certainly a part of how we can show care, sometimes it is the best way, and sometimes we are asked to show up with even more of ourselves.

Understanding ourselves as stewards, most importantly, reminds us that 'this' whatever it is, that we, whoever we are belong to God and work to do in caring for this creation.

Please Join Faith in Action for these Ceasefire Nightwalks



Stop the gun violence! Oakland Ceasefire is a movement to stop the killings and more people going to jail. We are uniting to build a culture of peace and healing. We are walking our neighborhoods to carry this message: We love you and we want you to be alive and free!

April 11 ~ Sacred Heart, 4025 MLK Jr. Way
April 25 ~ Mt Zion MBC, 1203 Willow Street
May 9 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue
May 16 ~ St. Columba, 6401 San Pablo Avenue
May 23 ~ New Hope MBC, 892 36th Street
May 30 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.
June 13 ~ Tabernacle MBC, 10115 Edes Avenue
June 20 ~ Emmanuel Greater Praise Church,
2025 86th Avenue
June 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Shaping Soundscapes's Future

For a while now, our Friday evening Soundscapes gathering has been a space for prayer, reflection, and live music—a chance to slow down, listen, and reset. As we look ahead, we're thinking about new ways to shape these 90 minutes to better serve our community.

We are considering diving the time into three 30-minute sections: maybe starting with gentle movement like yoga or stretching, flowing into live music, and closing with quiet reflection or guided meditation. Or maybe something entirely different! Would you be willing to help us host and guide this ministry?

We'd love your input and your involvement. If you have ideas or would like to be involved, please contact Jake or Pastor Matt.



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.

Practices of our Church Community – Ways to Join Us

Worship Service Each Sunday we gather at 10am to sing, pray, confess, and worship God together. We invite our community to participate in our worship services through singing, reading, praying, ushering, or sharing testimony. Do you like to write prayers or help connect music to themes in scripture? Talk with Di Pagel (Elder of Worship), Jake Fontana (Music Director) or Pastor Matt if you would like to help lead/design our worship services. You can also help us create space for conversation and building community through providing food during our coffee hour (11-12). Talk with Julia Marquez if you would like to contribute.



Food Ministry Each week, more than 40 volunteers share over 300 meals with our neighbors through our food ministry. Volunteers gather donated food on Fridays and Saturdays from local supermarkets and bakeries. Meals are prepared on Sundays and Mondays and are shared with neighbors and delivered to local encampments. We have opportunities to serve during the week, each Saturday, and Sunday. Talk with Gay Cobb or Dorothy Dugger or Nina Lapachet to get involved.



Bible Study Wednesday nights at 7pm via Zoom we gather around the sacred texts of scripture to study and reflect upon our lives and take new steps of faithfulness together. No need to study beforehand, just sign up for our weekly emails, click on the Zoom link and join conversation. Come with a desire to build community and listen for God's Spirit in the midst of scripture. Talk with Henry Gardner or Maggie Harmon or Pastor Matt for more details.



Building the Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. constantly spoke about God's work of building the beloved community - a community bridging across the differences of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability. Building the Beloved Community is one lens we use to look at all of our ministry at First Church. We also host conversations, book groups, attend concerts and art shows, to learn, reflect, and to help us build God's beloved community within our church community, in our neighborhoods, and city. Talk with Suzie Inadomi, Pastor Matt or Pastor Joel to learn about ways to join BBC work at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.

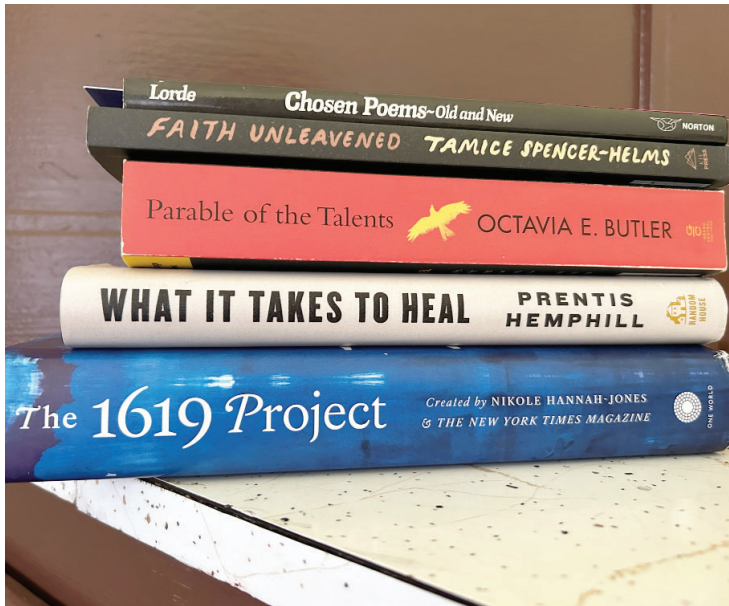


Faith in Action "Justice is what love looks like in the public." Cornel West. How do we put our faith into action to love our neighbors? One way we live out our faith is joining the ministries of Faith in Action East Bay, who for over 40 years have advocated and worked in areas of gun violence, immigration, education, housing, and equity in Oakland and the larger Bay Area. Members of First Pres. regularly join FIA Ceasefire night walks, advocate for affordable housing, and seek to support new structural changes for equity and justice. Talk with Pastor Matt to get involved and our new community organizer Chris Logan.



Community Life - God is community Three in one and we are made for community. Creating spaces for community around meals, discussion groups, backyard firepits, and outings together (A's game, beach etc.) are an important ministry within our church community. Do you like to host events, love connecting with others, enjoy building community? Talk with Julia Marquez or Pastor Matt and join them in planning our next community life events.





Books from Pastor Matt's study leave. Ask him about them!

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

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Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Erick Bevington, Treasurer

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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