

Sunday, June 8, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



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

*The Glorious Day has Appeared
by Ethel Smyth*

Welcome

*Ethel Smyth was a queer composer, women's suffragist, and the first
female composer granted a damehood.*

Call to Worship

One: In rushing wind and cleansing fire...

All: God's Spirit lead us here.

One: In courage found and faith renewed...

All: God's Spirit fills our hearts with longing.

One: In visions seen and dreams made real...

All: God's Spirit takes away our fear.

One: In rushing wind and cleansing fire...

All: God's Spirit sends us to share Christ's love.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of wind and flame, pour out your Holy Spirit on a world in need of Pentecost fire.
Fill your people with courage and power, and set our hearts ablaze, that our young
may have visions, and our elders may dream dreams. Ignite a passion within us to
spread the good news of your glorious salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit
Glory to God #408*

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

One: In any moment,
on any given day
I can measure my wellness
by this question:

*'Wellness Check'
by Andrea Gibson*

Is my attention on loving?
or is my attention on
who isn't loving me?

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

The Spirit helps us in our weakness and removes our shame. Rejoice, for God's steadfast love endures forever. The Great Spirit leads us into life.

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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2. 1 - 13 NRSV

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

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

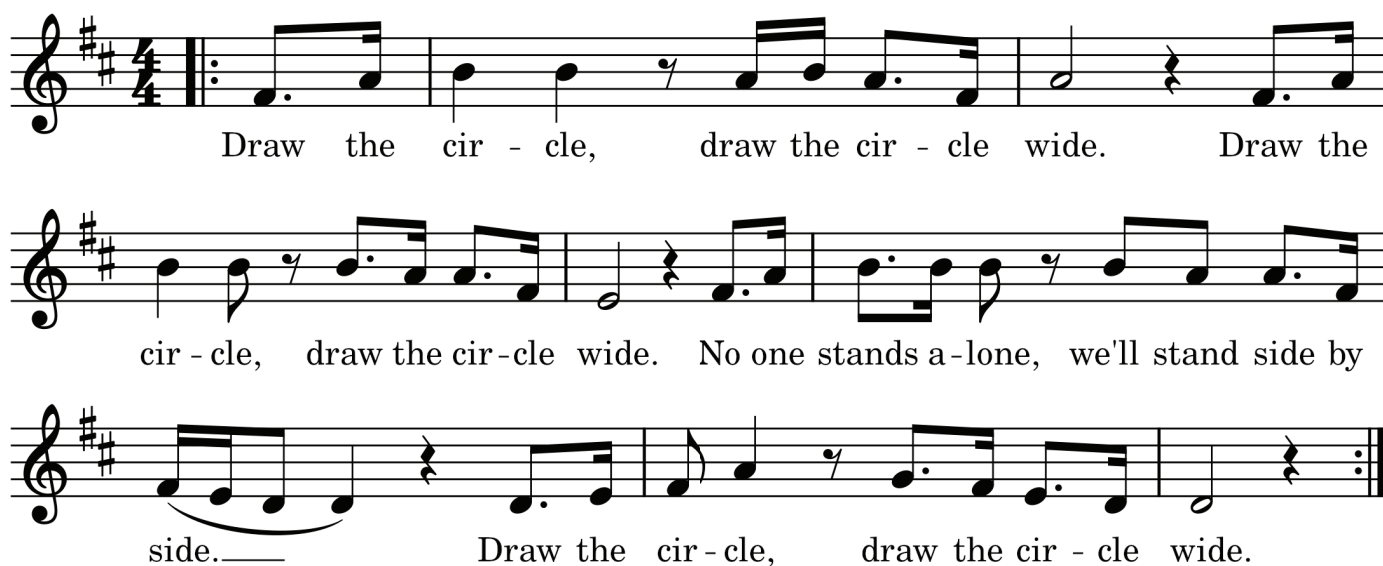
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

RESPONSE to the WORD

Song

Draw the Circle Wide



June is Pride Month

Invitation to the Offering

One: When the Spirit breathes upon us, we are filled with good things. When this breath is taken away, we return to the dust of the earth. In the time we have, let us give thanks and share our blessing with the world.

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:



Music at the Offering

*Mighty Wind
by Andraé Crouch*

Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Glory to God #607*

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

Prayer for the Offering

One: God of wind and flame, your Pentecost fire continues to touch us and bless our world today. May our offering bring the warmth of your love, and the glory of your holy flame, to those who are shaken by the buffeting winds all around us.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

We Are One in the Spirit

Benediction

Glory to God #300

One: Go, blessed by the power of God's Holy Spirit.
Go, warmed by God's sacred fire in your hearts.
Go, inspired by the glory of our Advocate.

All: Amen.

About our Guest Preacher: Christopher Logan



Christopher Logan is a passionate spiritual practitioner in the public sphere, which means his ministry is to empower communities to create a world that works for everyone through policy change. Previously, Chris was the Director of Organizing for Faith in Action East Bay, an Organizing Manager in San Jose, Sacramento, and New Orleans, and a licensed minister in the The United Methodist Church. He earned a Masters of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology. As a Partnership for the Bay Future Fellow, Chris

works in Marin County, alongside Community Action Marin and Movement Legal, implementing anti-displacement policies and county-wide cross-jurisdictional infrastructure for implementation. When not working, Chris finds his spiritual grounding through community, yoga, and Afrobeats.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Logan

Liturgist: Maggie Harmon

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Marilyn Reynolds

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Raenelle Tauron and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Sarah Postma and Aaron Ruff

Registration Now Open for our Fall Retreat: September 26-28, 2025

Registration is now open for our Fall Church retreat. We hope that you are making plans to join us. This is a great opportunity to gather in a beautiful space, to step away from everyday rhythms of life in order to build community with other members and to connect with God. You don't want to miss this.

Here are the details:

Where: Zephyr Point Presbyterian Retreat Center, just north of South Lake Tahoe. It is a 3.5-hour drive from Oakland. We will arrange carpool rides for those who need transportation. Friday afternoon traffic to Lake Tahoe can be intense, so if possible, we encourage people to leave mid-day on Friday.

When: Sept 26 – 28th. We will gather for dinner and a short program on Friday night. Saturday morning, we will study scripture, have time for reflection and connection to others. The afternoon will be open to explore retreat grounds, sit by the lake, play games, take a nap etc. We will have a short program and possibly a campfire on Saturday night. Sunday morning, we will worship together following breakfast and then journey home.

Why: A church retreat creates space to deepen relationships over meals and time to go deeper in conversation. The beauty of Lake Tahoe and time away from home allows space for reflection, examination of our lives, and connection with God. To Register: please go to: tinyurl.com/FPCOretreat or scan this code:



Pride Month Dinner Party Set for June 28

Eighteenth-century philosopher Immanuel Kant hosted dinner parties at which he insisted on a strict set of conversational rules. His dinner party philosophy could be summed up as “anyone can talk, but few can converse.” Twenty-first century queer folks are putting a fresh spin on dinner parties by employing fun, bold rules. A new dinner party concept devised by Joseph Awuah-Darko, a queer artist and founder of The Last Supper Project, and his friend Ili, encourage attendees to share stories and practice vulnerability.

As a part of pride month, we are planning a dinner party of this type. Before the event, attendees will receive a short list of “rules,” such as “wear your favorite color” and “come with a joke to share.” This will be an intergenerational event (kids are super duper welcome). The sentiment for our dinner party will be “to know one another and to be known.”



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!

June 13 ~ Tabernacle MBC, 10115 Edes Avenue

June 20 ~ Emmanuel Greater Praise Church,
2025 86th Avenue

June 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Please talk with Suzie Inadomi or Pastor Matt to plan a Friday to attend together.



Buildings and Grounds Update

By Ben Baab

Major Heating System Enhancement

Work is nearing completion on a new system for heating and cooling the Godly Play classroom, the Crib room and Nursery, and the Early Head Start areas. Instead of firing up the gas-burning boiler under the Sanctuary and then transferring the heat to both the classroom areas and Fellowship Hall, the new system will use new, in-room air handlers to heat or cool on a room-by-room basis. Eventually, hopefully before winter, a new furnace will be installed near the stage to heat Fellowship Hall as needed. The boiler will be dedicated to keeping us comfortable on Sunday mornings. As plans are developed, a room-by-room system is planned for the Parish House areas.

Parking Access

Drivers of low-clearance cars have had to avoid our parking lot and garage or suffer the scraping of their car's undercarriage when entering or exiting the parking lot. We have accepted a bid to have both access points leveled but are waiting for the contractor to be ready and the heating installation to be complete. Details about the work schedule will be shared with worshippers, tenants, renters, and visitors. We will do our best to avoid inconvenience on Fridays and Sundays, our busier parking days.

Stewardship News & Reflections

By Maggie Harmon

We have all heard that it takes a village to raise a child, or that many hands make light work. What these messages are really conveying is that we can accomplish great things, grow amazing people, and make an impact together.

Thank you for all the gifts you share with the church community to care for, support, build,



Other Issues

Periodic appliance failures, plumbing issues, electrical challenges, falling ceiling tiles, and irrigation eruptions keep Victor, Gus, Ben, and other helpers busy. Volunteer time and expertise has helped us complete larger tasks, including work parties for repairing 70 folding chairs and refreshing 26 pots of plants. Thank you to all who have helped! Other work parties will be held as need demands and interest allows.

and bring the open-heartedness of God to the world. As you think about your time, your unique gifts, and the assets you have to share consider what we can do next, together. Do you need help with a project? Do you have an idea for a new ministry, or expanding something we already do?

Ask around and see who is ready to help.

Cantare Summer Camp Fills First Church with Music and Delight



June 15 Worship will Focus on the Juneteenth Celebration

By Joel Mackey

The Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the United States was issued on January 1, 1863. News of the Proclamation did not reach Texas until June 19, 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued. Texas was the last state in the confederacy to receive news of the Proclamation. June 19th is now a nationwide holiday known as Juneteenth.

Many freed slaves viewed the end of slavery as a biblical moment of Jubilee. The bible speaks of Jubilee in several places with Leviticus 25 perhaps offering the most substantive exposition on the meaning and purpose of Jubilee. The people of Israel during the period of their wandering for 40 years were invited to engage each other and to an extent, their non-tribal neighbors in a re-ordering of their lives. Leviticus 25 called the people to embrace the reality of an inextricable connection between their relationship with God and how they are to treat one another in their economic, social, and political spheres. Leviticus

25 points the way to a relationship with God that is inseparable from a relationship with each other.

Leviticus 25 provides a rendering of our economic, social, and political values that is arguably contrary to the values embodied in capitalism or any other economic system practiced in modern times or any time in history. The year of Jubilee takes seriously inequities that inevitably occur in human societies and seeks to ensure that such inequities do not persist generationally.

During the worship service on June 15th, Gay Cobb, Henry Gardner, Matt Prinz and Joel Mackey will engage in a lively panel discussion of Leviticus 25, the year of Jubilee, and its relevance for us today. Please take a moment to read Leviticus 25 and come to Sunday service on June 15 eager for an informative exploration of how we might contribute to being part of a society that creates the conditions for future generations to succeed by minimizing potential systemic barriers created by the previous generations.



Join us for Upcoming Oakland Ballers and Oakland Roots Games!

Please join us at two upcoming Oakland hometown teams. Henry secured the box for the Roots vs Detroit City FC game on Saturday, July 5 at 7pm. It seats 18 and there are fireworks that night. Suzie purchased 10 tickets to the Oakland Ballers vs Northern Colorado Owlz game Sunday, July 27, 1:05pm.

They were \$20.50 each. Theme is Halloween in July so costumes are welcomed.

Please contact Suzie to secure your seat at either or both of these games. It will be great to cheer for our local teams!

Gay Plair Cobb Honored with Mothers of the Movement



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

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