

Sunday, June 15, 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

Variations on Our Father
by Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The Lord our God is great.

All: The Lord is worthy of our praise.

One: Come; let us remember the great things God has done for us.

All: Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

One: Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.

All: We remember our ancestors, our history, and we name our future.

One: Let us lift up our voices in song, lift our arms in praise, and open our hearts in gratitude.

All: Let us greet God with our hymn of praise.

Gathering Prayer

One: Almighty God, we come to worship you today with open hearts and open minds. We want to hear and receive what you have to say to us in this service. Speak to us today as you spoke to those who went before us. Tell us the stories of Your wonders and greatness. We are ready to hear them. Remind us once again of your grace and love. Help us teach your goodness to our children and the next generation.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing
African American Heritage Hymnal #540

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: 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

You are forgiven. You are forgiven. You are forgiven. 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 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

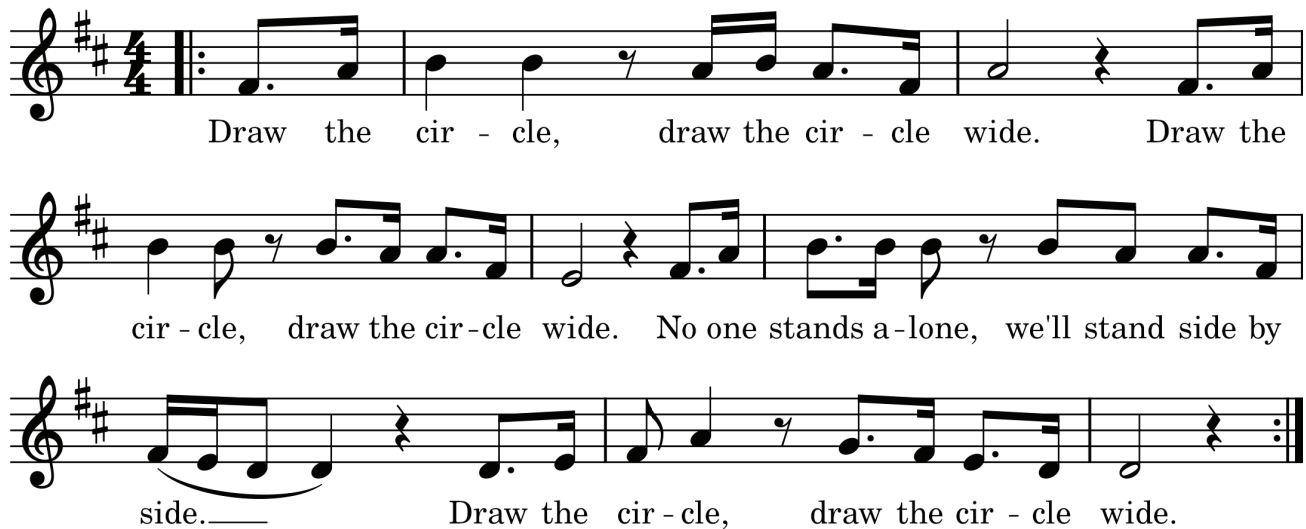
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

Draw the Circle Wide



June is Pride Month.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Leviticus 25. 1 – 17; Isaiah 61. 1 – 2 NRSV

The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the Lord. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. You may eat what the land yields during its Sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you, for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food.

“You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the Day of Atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. And

you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall not sow or reap the aftergrowth or harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

“In this year of Jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property. When you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not cheat one another. When you buy from your neighbor, you shall pay only for the number of years until the Jubilee; the seller shall charge you only for the remaining crop years. If the years are more, you shall increase the price, and if the years are fewer, you shall diminish the price, for it is a certain number of harvests that are being sold to you. You shall not cheat one another, but you shall fear your God, for I am the Lord your God.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

R E S P O N S E t o t h e W O R D

Panel Discussion

Song

Oh, Freedom
African American Heritage Hymnal #545

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

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

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*We've Come this Far by Faith
African American Heritage Hymnal #412*

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz and Rev. Joel Mackey

Liturgist: Henry Gardner

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Dorrie Dodge and Anne Margaret Manay

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Lachlan Welch

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 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.



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.

Cantare Wraps Up Second Week of Summer Camp



Music Vision or Guidelines or Aspirations at First Church Oakland

By Jake Fontana, Music Director and Pastor Matt

Spiritual Formation

Jeremiah, the Hebrew prophet, used an image of God as a potter and God's people as the clay, illustrating the powerful work of God in transforming our lives. Each Sunday as we gather for worship, we hope to create sacred space for God to form us as a people. In that sacred space we come close to God and each other. Some weeks we need the comfort of the Holy Spirit, other weeks we may need God's loving conviction and invitation to a new way of life. Singing songs, listening to music, praying for our needs, giving testimony of God's work, wrestling with scripture, taking communion, and practicing generosity are embodied spiritual practices that create sacred space for God's transformative work in our lives. As we sing and pray and pass the peace of Christ to one another we are connected, strengthened and encouraged to join God's work.

Participation of the Community

The apostle Paul described the early church as one body with many parts, each part with an important role to play. We invite all members and friends to energetically and joyfully participate in our musical worship. We hope that community members use their musical gifts to help lead worship as song leaders, musicians, planning services and/or in joining our choir. Scientists have found that when we sing within 6ft of others, we create deeper connections and deepen the sense of a shared communal identity. Through singing together, we are connected, comforted and filled with courage to continue God's reconciling work in our neighborhoods.

Diversity of Style

Our church's music reflects the beautiful diversity of God's people, drawing from traditional hymnody, folk and contemporary songwriting, and African American sacred traditions. In worship, you will hear the rumblings of the Rosales multi-story pipe organ, the stirring chords of the Hammond organ, and beautiful anthems sung by our choir, alongside praise music, Taizé, protest songs, and the likes of BB King, Sinéad O'Connor, and even a little Disney. Through these many styles—spanning generations and cultures—we seek not just to preserve tradition but to honor the living, breathing movement of the Spirit. In every note, we are reminded that God's presence is not bound by one sound or one way of worship but revealed in the fullness of our voices joined together.

Intentionality and Spontaneity

Our service music is shaped through prayerful discernment and collaboration, intentionally chosen to support the preaching, prayer, and liturgy to create a unified experience of worship. The pastor, musicians, worship leaders, and congregation all play a role in crafting services that speak to both heart and spirit. We draw from longstanding traditions within our congregation to mold our future gatherings. Yet we strive to remain open, responsive, and spontaneous in worship, trusting that sometimes a new song or piece of music may emerge, better reflecting the needs and energy of the gathered community.

Today's Worship Focuses 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!

Food Ministry Team Prepares Meals in the Coutyard



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

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

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