

Sunday, June 22, 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

Andante Espressivo

Welcome

by Hélène Liebmann

Call to Worship

One: Did you hear the whisper of God calling us to worship?

All: God, help us listen as you call.

One: Do you sense the beautiful people God is creating us to become?

All: God, help us to see your image within.

One: Are we ready to listen, learn, and grow?

All: God, open our hearts and minds to your loving and challenging guidance.

Gathering Prayer

One: Creator God, you have crafted us in your image and created us for greatness, as we share your love, justice, and compassion. Help us to live into this creation. Strengthen us, as we seek to answer your call. When we go astray, guide us back to your ways. When we fall apart, put us back together again. When we shrink in fear, lift our heads, that we may see your love and grace welcoming us home.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
African American Heritage Hymnal #563

CONFESS I O F SIN & ASSURANCE O F GRACE

'Wellness Check'
by Andrea Gibson

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

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

Marvelously set apart, we are created in God's own image.
Marvelously saved by grace, we are re-created in Christ's love.
Marvelously sustained by faith, we are new creations in the Spirit.
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.

PRAYERS O F T H E P E O P L E

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

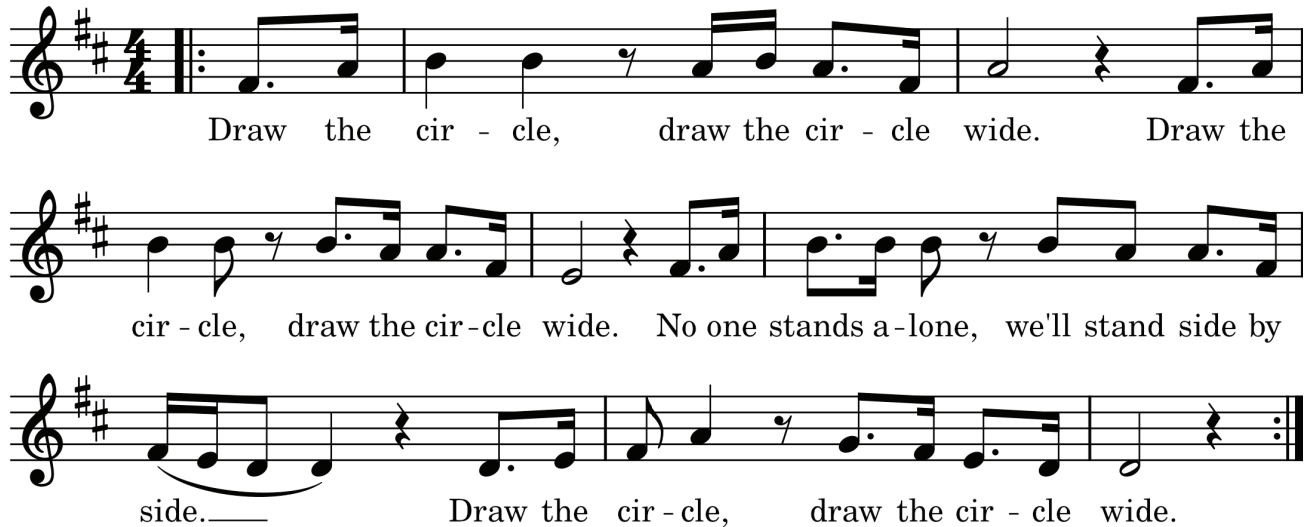
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

Jeremiah 18. 1 - 11 NRSV

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So, I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings

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

Wondering Together

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

Song

Change My Heart

Glory to God #695

Invitation to the Offering

One: Gracious God, you have blessed us beyond measure: you have entrusted us as partners to care for your world. Bless these gifts and our very lives. Transform everything we are in this life into offerings that bring your love to the world.

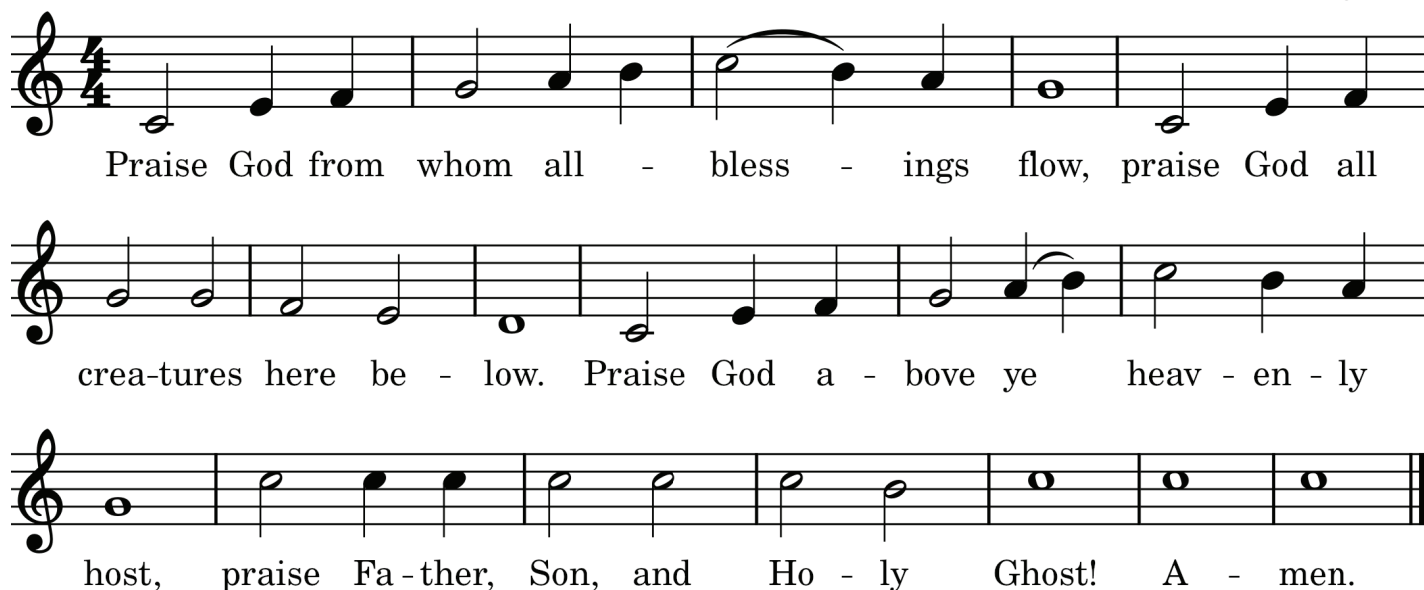
Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. You may also make a donation by using this QR code on your smart phone:



Offertory

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God from whom all - bless - ings flow, praise God all
crea-tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove ye heav - en - ly
host, praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

Prayer for the Offering

One: Gracious God, you have blessed us beyond measure: you have entrusted us as partners to care for your world. Bless these gifts and our very lives. Transform everything we are in this life into offerings that bring your love to the world.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*God of Grace and God of Glory
Glory to God #307*

Benediction

One: May the Spirit's power give us courage.

May Christ's love give us compassion.

And may God's image shine through us, as we carry a cross of light and love for all.

All: Amen.

About our Guest Preacher: Rev. Sally Steele



Sally is a co-executive director of City Hope San Francisco, a nonprofit focused on providing a space of belonging for our most marginalized neighbors. Sally's work includes overseeing staff development and equity, the organization's transitional sober living home, and overall operations. Sally began her work building support networks for immigrant faith leaders and equipping faith-communities to support refugee families. She then served as the outreach director for a large congregation in Washington, D.C., managing

nonprofit partnerships and providing grants and volunteers, before joining City Hope in 2014. Sally is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (MDiv) and the University of Virginia (BA), and is ordained in the RCA (Reformed Church in America). She lives in Oakland with her husband and three kids.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Sally Steele

Liturgist: Rev. Joel Mackey

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Aaron Ruff and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Martha Bauman

July Sermon Series – Mary Oliver collection of poems Devotions – Spirituality, Creation, and God

Mary Oliver has touched countless readers with her brilliantly crafted verse, expounding on her love for the physical world and the powerful bonds among all living things.

Now, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet returns with a stunning and definitive collection spanning more than five decades of her esteemed and celebrated literary career.

Carefully curated, Devotions features Oliver's work from her very first book of poetry, *No Voyage and Other Poems*, published in 1963 when she was twenty-eight, through her most recent collection, *Felicity*, published in 2015.

This timeless volume, arranged by Oliver herself, showcases the beloved poet at her edifying best. Within these pages, she provides us with an extraordinary and invaluable collection of her passionate, perceptive, and much-treasured observations of the natural world.

Born in a small town in Ohio, Mary Oliver published her first book of poetry in 1963 at the age of twenty-eight. Over the course of her long career, she has received numerous awards. Her fourth book, *American Primitive*, won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1984. She has led workshops and held residencies at various colleges and universities, including Bennington College, where she held the Catharine Osgood Foster Chair for Distinguished Teaching.

Oliver currently lives in Florida.



Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue
air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

First Church Attends No Kings March in Downtown Oakland

The No Kings Day March and Rally on June 14 was a great success. Organizers reported that there were over 2,100 events nationwide, with an estimated 5 million people participating from each of our 50 states.



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.”



Join us for these 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!



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:



Food Ministry Roles Available

Contact Pastor Matt, Dorothy Dugger or Gay Cobb to sign up for these opportunities.

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.: Each Saturday morning volunteers go to Whole Foods and Good Eggs to pick up donations. We need help organizing and cleaning up the donation pick-ups. Love our neighbors and build community.

Weekly Communications: Each week we share in word and picture what is happening within our food ministry to the church community. Would you like to take a few pictures and type up a brief report about the food ministry to encourage and inspire others to join us in loving our neighbors?

Sunday Lead: We are seeking another volunteer to lead one Sunday a month before and after our worship service. A Sunday lead follows the meal plan, coordinates volunteers, guides food distribution, and checks on the clean-up. The lead ensures that volunteers have meaningful service and can contribute to this important ministry.

Organizing dry goods pantry and storage closets: With many users of the kitchen, things sometimes don't get put away in the best place or with the most logic. Spend an hour or two at the most, once a month to put things back in shape and help keep the kitchen functional.

Neighbor Liasion: Get to know the neighbors we serve and guests who come pick up lunch and sometimes groceries at our 27th St entrance. Sundays after fellowship hour. 11:45 to 12:45-1:00. 2 volunteers needed to give out lunch bags and serve coffee and visit with our guests. You can sign up online when you see a vacancy or pick one Sunday a month as a regular time of service.

Substitute Friday Pick Up in August 11am -1pm
Special thanks to Maggie Harmon to taking over the Friday grocery donation pick up while Ben and Martha Baab are away for three weeks in August. If you would like to take a shift doing Friday pick up in the future, please contact Ben.



Ben, Erick and Mario Upgrade Electrical Panel in Classrooms



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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