

Sunday, June 29, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Art by Scott Erickson

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

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We will call to mind the works of the Lord,

All: and remember God's wonders of old.

One: In times of trouble, we cry out to God,

All: longing for our souls to be comforted.

One: When our spirits are weary,

All: we reach for God's arms.

One: Even when we don't feel courageous,

All: we need to receive God's peace.

One: Keeping God's deeds in mind,

All: we carry them in our hearts.

One: For God's ways are holy,

All: and God's grace is great.

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy One, the waters tremble and the skies open. Your voice rumbles with thunder, flashes with lightning, and crashes with waves as the earth shakes. And yet, there is peace in your voice. You trouble the waters of our spirits, even as you soothe the struggles of our souls. Your footprints guide our way—unseen by human eyes, but always visible to our hearts.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

Come! Live in the Light!

Glory to God #749

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

'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

One: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are beloved.

All: Amen.

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

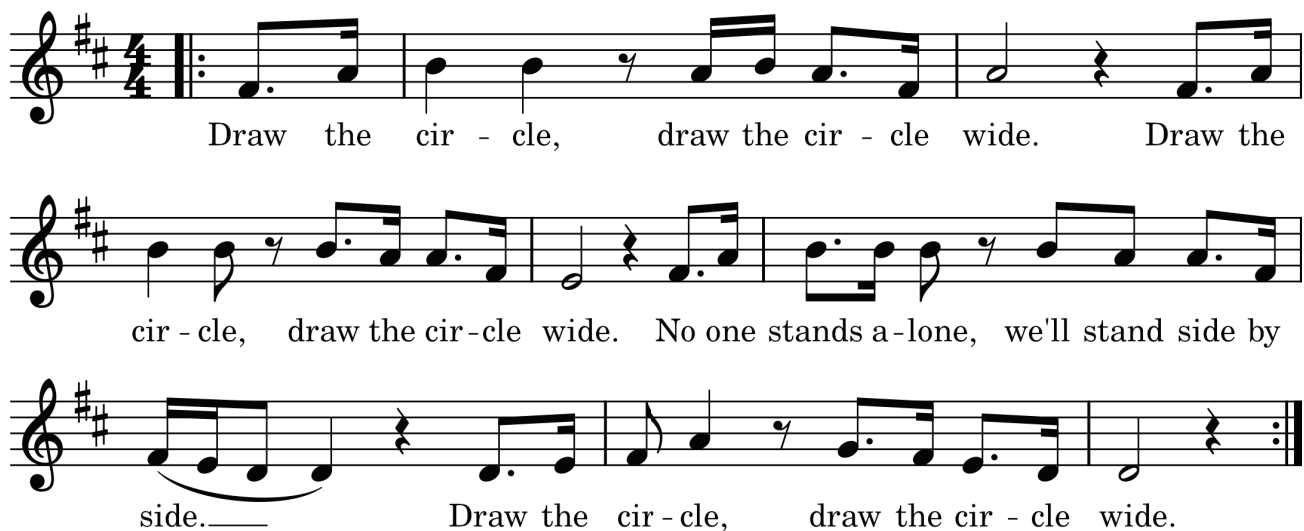
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

Draw the Circle Wide



June is Pride Month.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Psalms 77 NRSV

I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.
I think of God, and I moan;
I meditate, and my spirit faints.
You keep my eyelids from closing;
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

I consider the days of old
and remember the years of long ago.
I commune with my heart in the night;
I meditate and search my spirit:
“Will the Lord spurn forever
and never again be favorable?
Has his steadfast love ceased forever?
Are his promises at an end for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?”
And I say, “It is my grief
that the right hand of the Most High has changed.”
I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord;
I will remember your wonders of old.
I will meditate on all your work
and muse on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is so great as our God?
You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.
With your strong arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep trembled.
The clouds poured out water;
the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on every side.
The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.
Your way was through the sea,
your path through the mighty waters,
yet your footprints were unseen.
You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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

Conversation Continues

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

Song

Lament

Invitation to the Offering

*by Mark Miller
sung by the choir*

One: God has given us a calling and equipped us with an abundant share of God's own Spirit—gifts to use and to share.

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
Glory to God #607*

Prayer for the Offering

One: Gracious God, you have put your Spirit within us. These gifts we could never earn and can never repay. Yet we are filled with your love, joy, patience, peace, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And so we offer them all to you, grateful to pass them on to your people and to your world.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*Live into Hope
Glory to God #772*

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Matthew Inadomi

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Anne Margaret Manay and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: L J Rose and Jan Busch



A Message For Our Vulnerable Communities Amidst Our Current Administration

As Christians we are mindful of the biblical witness, which demands of us that we seek justice for immigrants and sojourners (Exodus 22:21), that reminds us that our treatment of immigrants corresponds directly to our treatment of Christ (Matthew 25:31-46), and promises us that in the fullness of time we will all be immigrants in the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 2:2-5, Revelation 7:9-11 and 21:22-27). As Presbyterians we have promised to be guided by our polity, which enjoins us to promote social righteousness (Book of Order F-1.0304), and by our confessions which call the Church to speak up “in each time and place there are particular problems and crises through which God calls the church to act” (Confession of 1967 9.43) and to “reject any ideology that would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel (Belhar Confession 10:8).

Therefore we, the Co-Moderators and Transitional Executive Presbyter at the Presbytery of San Francisco, condemn the unlawful and extrajudicial federal efforts

to inflict terror on immigrant communities, particularly in California, where Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have targeted immigration courts, including in Concord and San Francisco, where people are engaging in the legal process of immigration. We applaud those who are upholding and engaging in the United States constitutional right to due process and peaceful protest. We know from our own scriptures that people move and have a right to do so. We keep in prayer all of those engaged in protecting our communities from unnecessarily aggressive enforcement seeking to ramp up their deportation numbers by targeting people at court, work, or their children’s schools.

Make sure you have the Rapid Response Network phone number appropriate to your county saved in your phone in case ICE comes to your house, place of business, or place of worship. Be reminded that relying on constitutional rights remains a viable tool to use in interacting with ICE. Unfortunately, places of worship are now considered public spaces unless there is an office area or other area marked “private.” Please contact the presbytery if you experience any ICE activity at your place of worship.

Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership (ACILEP)

- Phone Number: (510) 241-4011
- Operating Hours: M-F 6AM - 6PM
- Website: <https://www.acilep.org/>

For more information on resources, visit:
<https://bit.ly/SanctuaryPeopleResources>

Dollywood Sanctuary: An LGBTQ Pride Sermon

By Sam Lundquist, Pastor
St. John's Presbyterian San Francisco



If you take Route 441 south out of Knoxville, Tennessee, then turn right at the Sonic, turn left at the giant iceberg at the Titanic Museum, past the Days Inn, Lumberjack Show, and Go-Karts, another Days Inn, Lumberjack...and another... then left at the Toy Story knock-off mini-golf (not too far or you'll hit the Bush's Baked Beans factory), you will find yourself in a land of rhinestones and rainbows: Dollywood! In the middle of a state that's become hostile to queer people, Dollywood has become a sanctuary. Because of Dolly's loud, inclusive spirit, folks know they'll be seen, known and understood inside those gates.

We all need people who see, know, and understand us. That everyday miracle is how the Church was born. As the story goes, on a day called Pentecost, early followers of Jesus huddled in a room, when all of the sudden, a howling, fiery wind swept through everyone. Others rushed in to see what was happening only to discover that the windswept people could somehow speak every language. They were confused, stunned. They thought everyone was drunk. (Really.) But somehow, they could look around and say, "I'm seen and known and understood."

This is an amazing sanctuary. But also a dangerous one. Because of what's right outside the door. The people gathered in that room had followed in the footsteps of Jesus, man who had just been killed after he threatened "normal" life, questioned the way things are done, spent time with those no one wanted to, said "welcome home" to those who were cast out, cried with those who were hurting, hugged people no one would even touch, dined with those others called disgusting, and said, "Look at this world. Everyone is so beautiful." People couldn't take that and wanted to erase him. They tried. But they couldn't. And so this group of followers bravely gathered to keep telling the story and keep loving the world when the world wouldn't.

But right outside the door, the world still didn't want to hear it. They still don't. There is a strange spirit rising again in our world. It is not one person, or one leader, or one party. It is an old story that says people who are different are dangerous, or wrong, or sinners, or evil. That queer people are less-than and unworthy.

This Pride Month, this spirit hit me hard when the name of Harvey Milk was removed from a military ship. (This is to say nothing about putting names on warships.) This news took me out. I had to lay down. I was confused, stunned, sad.

"You don't want to honor his name?" I asked myself.

"You don't want us to be proud of that name?"

"You don't want us to look up to that name?"

The name of a man Who spoke up about gay rights when no one would? Who gave people permission to be themselves? Who helped calm the fear of people afraid to live life? Who had people from all over the country writing him letters to tell him that his courage had saved their life?



Who was killed because he gave too many people,
the “wrong” kind of people, hope for a future?

You don’t want us to look to that name?
The name of Harvey Milk?
You want it erased.
You want it go away.
You want people like him to go away.
You want us to go away.
You want me to go away.
That is a scary thing. A strange spirit.
I know many of you have felt that fear, too.
And while I can’t tell you what’s on the horizon,
I do know there is a different way, a different Spirit.

It is that howling, fiery wind Spirit that sees people and wants nothing more than to know and understand them. That calls queer people beautiful, remarkable, gorgeous, good, holy.

That in the face of all things isn’t afraid, but undyingly hopeful. That Spirit sweeps through our Pride season, a sanctuary from all that is right outside our doors. And that might be what we need most right now: Sanctuary.

Sanctuaries aren’t places where escape and pretend everything’s OK. Or places to lock the

doors because we’re too scared to go outside. Sanctuaries are places and moments where we hear the deep truth about who we are, where we are cared for in word and in deed, where we are seen and known and understood, where we get the strength and courage to open our doors and tell that story to others.

That’s sanctuary.

This Pride, I pray we can find sanctuaries and be sanctuaries wherever people need them.

To our allies, let the queer people in your life know that you’ve got their back,
no matter what.

And to all my queer siblings: In this time when the world is trying to erase you and this strange spirit is looming over our lives, may you find sanctuary, like cinnamon bread in a rocking chair at Dollywood, in the story of who you are.
You are good. So good. Created good. Called good. You, just by being you, in your body, are so strong, so brave, so resilient. The ways you see this life and the ways you express yourself in it are beautiful.

You are a gift that this world needs.
This is the story of who you are.
It is written by God and no one else.
Never forget it.

And never forget that you are loved.



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.



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.

Come to the 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:



Tickets still available for 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!



Stewardship News & Reflections

By Maggie Harmon

We are the beneficiaries of God's inclusive love, and as a community seek to welcome all to share in this joy. What a gift! How are you uniquely called to share the gifts you have received through this community?

“Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it...that way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and God will get all the credit as the One mighty in everything.” 1 Peter 4:8-11 (The Message).

Sidewalk Repair Shows “Root” Cause of Problem



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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