

Sunday, July 13, 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

Chant of Peace

Welcome

Jean Langlais

Call to Worship

One: Holy, loving Creator of all, the heavens declare your goodness each day and night
proclaims your love.

All: You call us to witness to your power and grace.

One: You give us mouths to sing your praises, hands and feet to do your will.

All: You call us to proclaim the good news of your reign.

One: We yearn to become your people, the body of Christ, living for the sake of the
world.

All: Let us worship the God who calls us.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of Wisdom, reveal the mystery of your precepts, that we might hear the music
of the heavens—the whisper of the land and roar of the seas, the prayer of the
caterpillar and song of the flea. Speak to us through the fullness of creation, we pray.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

Morning Has Broken
Glory to God #664

CONFESSIO N o f SIN & ASSURANCE o f GRACE

Confession/Assurance/Interior Examination – *Wild Geese* by Mary Oliver

One: 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.

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 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. If you would like, there are two prayer stations set up in the front and back of the sanctuary

1) Light a candle for a neighbor, friend, or one who needs God's hope and justice

2) Sprinkle salt into water as a prayer of tears – who is lost and lonely and left behind? Cry out to God for them.

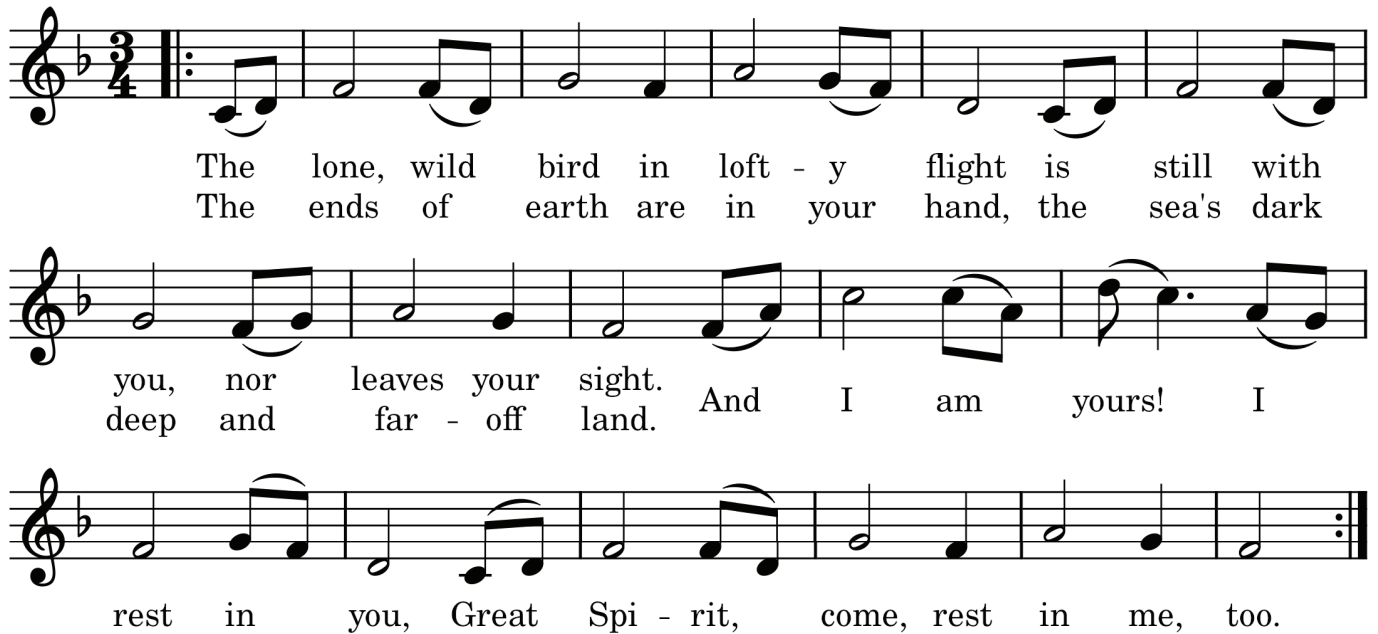
Prayer

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.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

The Lone, Wild Bird



The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is still with
The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea's dark
you, nor leaves your sight. And I am yours! I
deep and far - off land.
rest in you, Great Spi - rit, come, rest in me, too.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 19. 1 and Luke 6.12 and Matthew 5.6 NRSV

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

Poem – *Thirst* by Mary Oliver

Another morning and I wake with thirst
for the goodness I do not have. I walk
out to the pond and all the way God has
given us such beautiful lessons. Oh Lord,

I was never a quick scholar but sulked
and hunched over my books past the hour
and the bell; grant me, in your mercy,
a little more time. Love for the earth
and love for you are having such a long
conversation in my heart. Who knows what
will finally happen or where I will be sent,
yet already I have given a great many things
away, expecting to be told to pack nothing,
except the prayers which, with this thirst,
I am slowly learning.

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

Sermon Continued

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

Song

Let the Glory of the Lord Endure Forever

1 2

Let the glo - ry of the Lord en - dure for - ev - er, let the

Lord be glad in_ all the earth. I will sing praise to my God as

long as I live. I will sing praise to my God while I have my be-ing.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket labeled '1'. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Invitation to the Offering

One: All that we have comes from you God. Guide us in generously sharing your gifts with others.

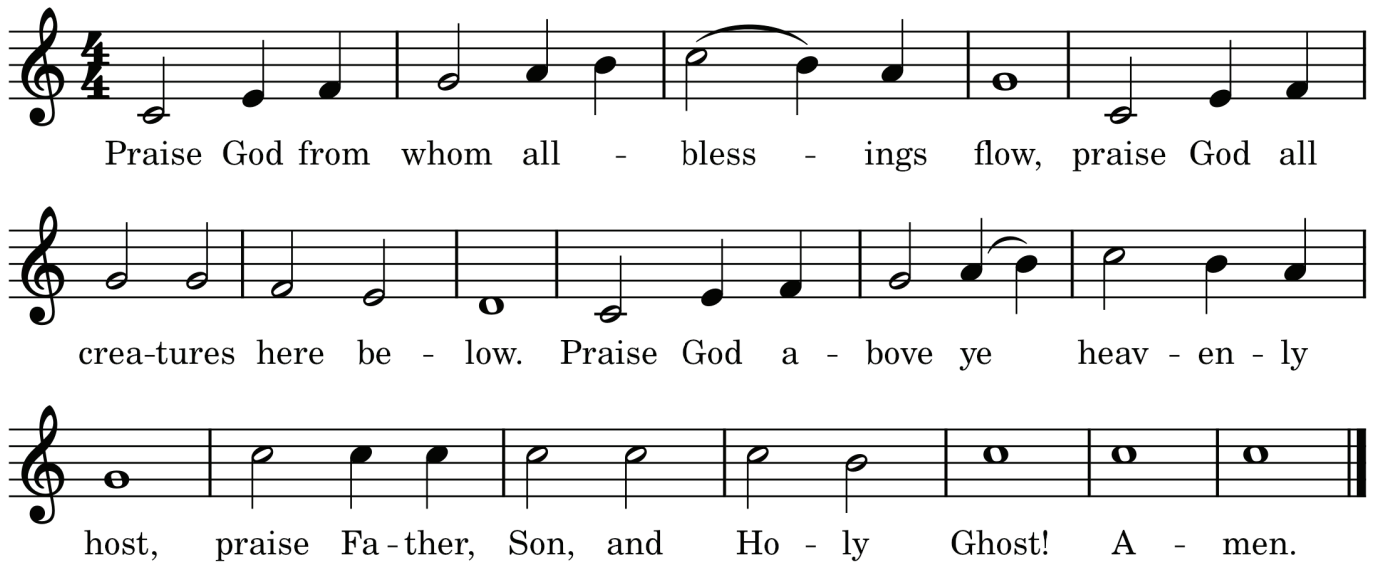
Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. You may also make a donation by using this QR code on your smart phone:



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: God of our ancestors, Caretakers of our future, thank you for your faithful love. May the gifts we bring before you this day honor the many ways you bless this church. And may our offering reflect our commitment to lead lives of love, as we continue Jesus' mission to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

This Is My Father's World
Glory to God #370

Benediction from Sometimes by Mary Oliver

One: Instructions for living a life:
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

All: Amen.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Linda Carter

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Dorothy Dugger and Charmaine Irmiter

First Church Community Gets Some Kicks at the Roots Home Game!



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.

New Summer Food Ministry Opportunities Available



Summer is vacation time and so it is for food ministry volunteers as well. Three of our Sunday morning volunteers who prepare sandwich bag lunches will be travelling for much of August and parts of September. If you've wanted to try out helping with the Sunday lunch prep now is the perfect time to get your feet wet. And your help will be greatly appreciated.

Nina Lapachet maintains an electronic signup sheet that shows when volunteer slots are open and need to be filled. You can signup anytime in the week before you want to volunteer. Just email Nina at ninalapachet@gmail.com and she will send you the link to the signup sheet. Open the sheet, click on the time slot you want to volunteer and add your name. This lets us know if we have enough volunteers (or need to try to stir up a couple more) and prevents us from having more people than needed (nothing worse than making the time and effort to volunteer and there not be enough work to do). Many thanks for thinking about including the Food Ministry in your summer plans.

Mandela Partners Applications Open for August 11 Cohort

Mandela Partners is recruiting again for the Culinary Employment Pathways (CEP) program. CEP is a 13 week culinary training program that pays community members facing barriers to employment to participate in hands-on kitchen training, soft skill development, and internships with the goal of long term employment in the culinary industry.

If you know of anyone who is currently unemployed or under-employed, ready to transition back to work and able to commit to the entire 13 weeks. We will be serving 8 participants in this cohort, anyone who does not make it in this time can be placed on a waiting list for the next one. Here is the important information:

- Applications close July 22nd. Go to www.tfaforms.com/5052307 for the form.
- Training begins Monday, August 11, 2025
- The training portion of the program is 5 weeks, followed by 192 paid internship hrs
- Training is held here from 1pm-5pm, Monday - Thursday
- Training and subsequent internship hours are paid at \$21/hr
- Applicants must fill out an online application
- Applicants must be 22+ years old
- Applicants must be US citizens or have right to work documents
- The application process consists of three steps; the initial online application linked above, a phone screening, followed by an in person interview
- Applicants must schedule their own phone screenings via a link they will receive once their application has been submitted.

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:



Come to the Ceasefire Teach-in with Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee

Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee

Ceasefire Teach-In Series



A Call to Learn, Understand & Act for a Safer Oakland

Join Mayor Barbara Lee, Oakland Police Chief Floyd Mitchell, Dr. Holly Joshi, Department of Violence Prevention Chief, and a panel of leading community safety and justice experts for an interactive community learning experience will unpack the facts, data, and lived realities behind gun violence in Oakland – and explore how Ceasefire and other proven strategies are evolving to meet the moment.



Upcoming Dates/Locations:

July 19, 2:30pm - 4pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
114 Montecito Avenue

July 24, 3:30pm - 5pm, St. Columba Church
6401 San Pablo Avenue

July 31, 3:30pm - 5pm, Montclair Presbyterian Church
5701 Thornhill Drive

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/OCFTI>

Stewardship News & Reflections

By Maggie Harmon

Did you know that at First Presbyterian Church we are actively engaged in feeding people providing over 300 meals every week, we have youth programs, partner with many organizations that care for and enrich our community, and so much more.

Your generous gifts of time, skill, and financial resources allows us to do more to care for our neighbors, and grow in God's love.



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

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
 Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
 Erick Bevington, Treasurer

Deacons

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 Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine
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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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