

Sunday, July 27, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Mary Oliver Poetry Reading Night

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 from Sonata in G Minor
Giuseppe Tartini

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We have gathered from different places and different backgrounds.

All: May those who are grieving find comfort.

One: May those who have turned away from God find forgiveness.

All: May those who are waiting find hope.

One: May all find God's steadfast love and grace.

All: Let us worship the One who gives us life!

Gathering Prayer

One: Jesus, you give us life and nourish our spirits. As your beloved children, help us walk in your ways, each and every day. May we speak words of kindness to one another and open our hearts to share comfort and encouragement. May we offer and seek forgiveness. Most of all, may we remember that your steadfast love extends to all of your beloved children. In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

Fill My Life
by Robert Powell
sung by the choir

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: O Lord, we cry out to you! We cry out for help: when we turn away from you; when we ignore the needs of our neighbors; when we speak harsh words to those around us; when we forget that we are your beloved children. Draw us close and embrace us with your steadfast love and your healing grace. In your merciful name, we pray.

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: Beloved children of God, the Lord offers wholeness and new life to those who seek it. In the name of Christ, you are one with God! Thanks be to God!

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.

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 Gods' 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 remain seated.

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

Psalms 5 NRSV

Listen to my words, O Lord; attend to my sighing.

Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I plead my case to you and watch.

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you.

The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house;

I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

For there is no truth in their mouths; their hearts are destruction; their throats are open graves; they flatter with their tongues. Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of their many transgressions, cast them out, for they have rebelled against you.

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them; so that those who love your name may exult in you.

For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover them with favor as with a shield.

Poem: 'Don't Hesitate' by Mary Oliver

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy,
don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty
of lives and whole towns destroyed or about
to be. We are not wise, and not very often
kind. And much can never be redeemed.
Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this
is its way of fighting back, that sometimes
something happens better than all the riches
or power in the world. It could be anything,
but very likely you notice it in the instant
when love begins. Anyway, that's often the
case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid
of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

R E S P O N S E to the W O R D

Reflection

Song

This is the Day
African American Heritage Hymnal #108

Invitation to the Offering

One: God is here, welcoming us just as we are. In thanksgiving for all God has blessed us with, and in gratitude for all the ways God loves us, may we bring our offerings before God.

Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. You may also make a donation by scanning this QR code with your smartphone, or by texting your donation to 510.880.1329



Offertory

Allegro energico from Sonata in G Minor
Giuseppe Tartini

Doxology

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

Prayer for the Offering

One: Gracious God, we bring these gifts to you, that you may bless them. May they bring comfort to those who mourn, help to those in need, and joy to all your beloved children.

All: Amen.

S E N D I N G O U T t o b e T H E C H U R C H

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Glory to God #611*

Benediction

One: Siblings in Christ,
May you find comfort in God's grace.
May you find strength in Christ's love.
And may you find encouragement in the Spirit's power.
Go in peace.

All: Amen.

About our Guest Preacher: Pastor Nate Millheim



Nate Millheim served on staff at multiple churches in the East Bay, worked with ReImagine in San Francisco as Director of Training Initiatives and then founded Oakland Leadership Center to serve youth and young adults in East Oakland. He was trained in Spiritual Direction through CFDM and enjoys serving as a spiritual director and a guest preacher. He also coaches basketball at Ohlone College.

S E R V I N G i n W O R S H I P T O D A Y

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Pastor Nate Millheim

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Guest Violinist: Matthew Major

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

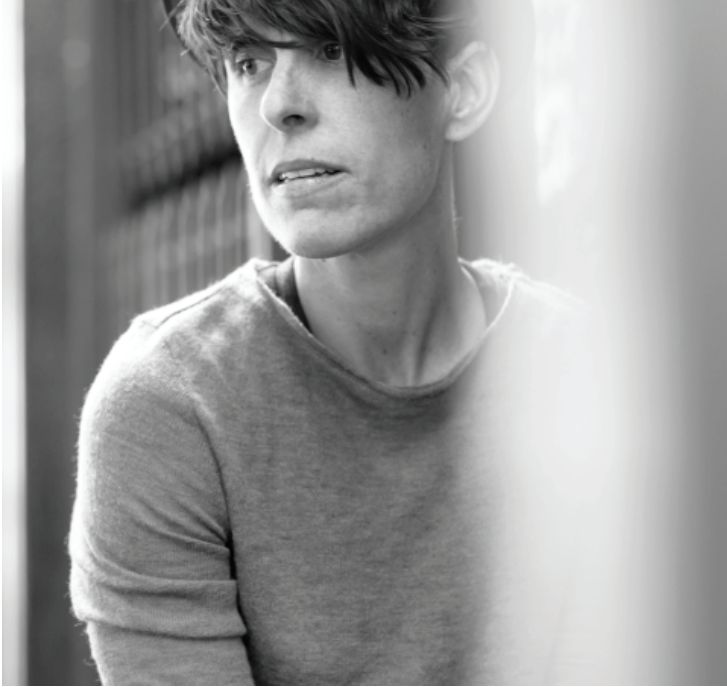
Godly Play: Aaron Ruff and Di Pagel

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Pam and Tom Prinz

First Church Celebrates an Agape Meal on Sunday, July 20



Remembering Andrea Gibson - August 13, 1975-July 14, 2025



“Whenever I leave this world, whether it’s sixty years from now, I wouldn’t want anyone to say I lost some battle. I’ll be a winner that day.”
Andrea Gibson

Andrea Gibson was a winner today. On July 14th, at 4:16AM, Andrea Gibson died in their home surrounded by their wife, Meg, four ex-girlfriends, their mother and father, dozens of friends, and their three beloved dogs.

Poet Laureate of Colorado, world-touring spoken word artist, author of seven books, Calais Maine High School State Basketball Champion, and subject of the award-winning documentary, “Come See Me in the Good Light”, and so much more — Andrea Gibson accomplished much on their 49 years on this planet. Though Andrea desperately wished to have lived a longer life, they could not have possibly lived a fuller one.

Since learning they had cancer in 2021, Andrea has been a champion of finding beauty in unlikely places and gratitude in the hardest hours. Over the last four years, they danced with their diagnosis, and continually aimed their internal

compass toward joy. One of the last things Andrea said on this planet was, “I fucking loved my life.”

Not long ago, Andrea wrote a poem titled “Love Letter From the Afterlife.” In it, they offered this line: “I am more here than I ever was before. I am more with you than I ever could have imagined.” Today, and all days forward, we hope you feel Andrea’s enormous spirit and immense presence beside you.

Meg and Heather, Andrea’s wife and mother, authored this obituary and have absolutely no idea how to encapsulate the magnitude and magnificence of a life like Andrea Gibson’s. So they intend to keep writing, to keep telling Andrea’s story, to keep Andrea alive in every way they can. Andrea would want you to know that they got their wish. In the end, their heart was covered in stretch marks.

every time i ever said i want to die

By Andrea Gibson

A difficult life is not less worth living than a gentle one. Joy is simply easier to carry than sorrow. And your heart could lift a city from how long you’ve spent holding what’s been nearly impossible to hold.

This world needs those who know how to do that. Those who could find a tunnel that has no light at the end of it, and hold it up like a telescope to know the darkness also contains truths that could bring the light to its knees. Grief astronomer, adjust the lens, look close, tell us what you see.

Come to the Final 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>



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.

Registration Ends August 3 for the Fall Retreat

Registration will close soon 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:



Discount Code Available for Cantare July 27 Summer Concert



YOUR TICKET TO THE MOVIES

SONGS INCLUDE:

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN • WHEN I FALL IN LOVE
MY HEART WILL GO ON • HIGH HOPES • AS TIME GOES BY
DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

Cantare:
Lifting Voices
Uplifting Lives

7:30PM, SAT. JULY 26
LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4:00PM, SUN. JULY 27
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OAKLAND

Cantare would like to extend an invitation to First Presbyterian Church to attend its summer concert, Your Ticket to the Movies! This concert will be featuring a collection of film music from the past 100+ years including songs such as “Singin in the Rain,” “My Heart Will Go On,” “Rainbow Connection,” and “Let it Go!”

Cantare has created a discount code, NEIGHBOR, so when you buy tickets, you can get \$5 off the ticket price.

Feel free to invite your friends and family, and feel free to share this code with them. We hope to see you there!

Text Giving Now Available



We have made it easy to donate to First Church with a new text giving function. First Church text giving number is 510.880.1329.

You can also access our donation page via this QR code:



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

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Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine
Irmiter, Pam Prinz

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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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