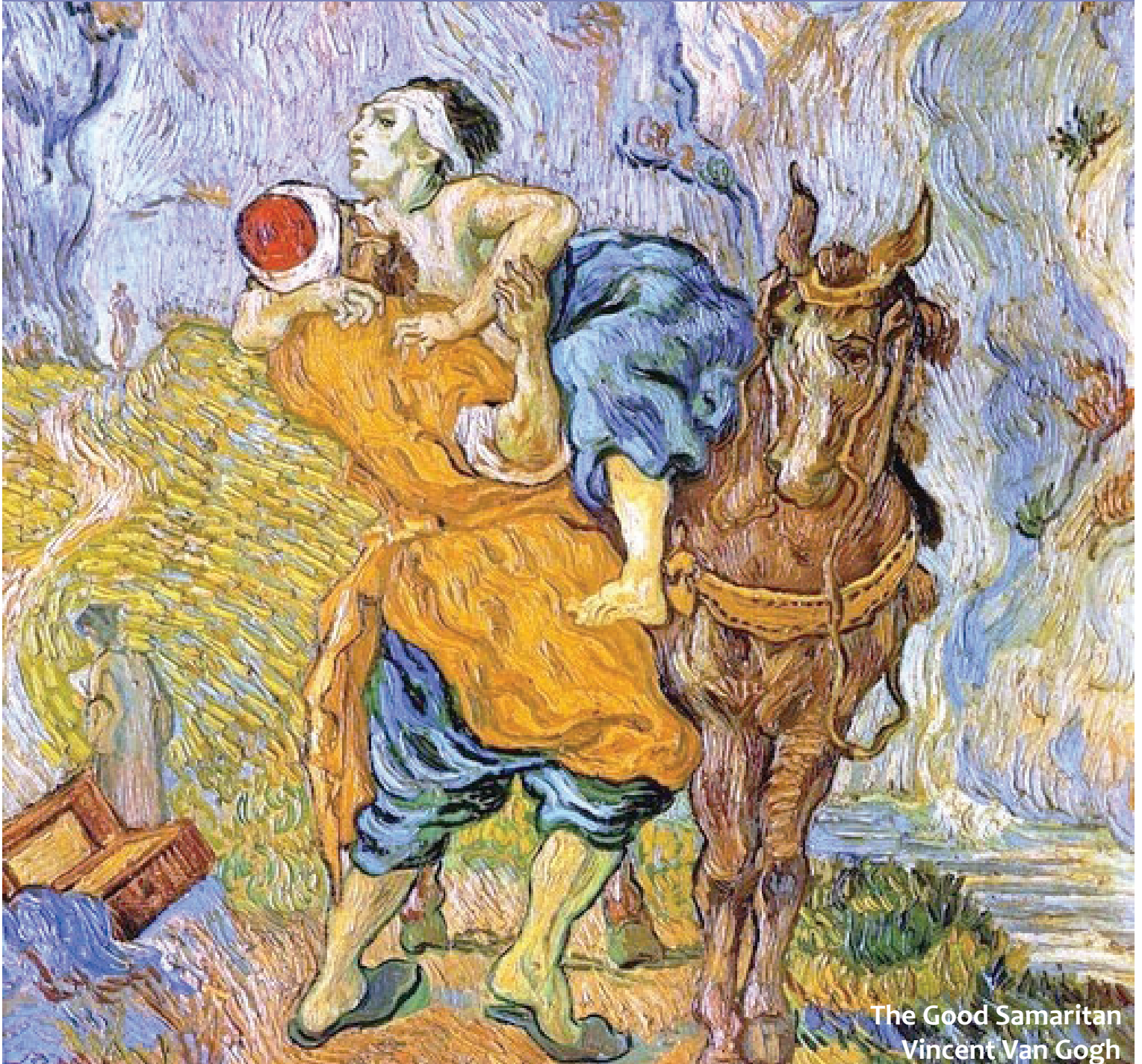


Sunday, August 3, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



The Good Samaritan
Vincent Van Gogh

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

*A Beautiful Day
by Nate Heller*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Beloved people of God, welcome to worship.

All: We come to worship and to praise.

One: With love for one another, we gather as neighbors.

All: With love for God, we gather as God's community of love.

Gathering Prayer

One: Loving God, thank you for being present in our lives and in this time of worship. Speak love to our hearts and wisdom to our minds, that we might grow in your knowledge of love and that our lives might bear fruit of your knowledge and grace.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
Glory to God #727*

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Merciful God, help us remember to love and care for our neighbors. When we would rather walk around people in need and avoid situations that trouble us, soften our hearts. Give us the courage to care for our neighbors and to love others as graciously as you love us. In your grace and love, 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: In grace, we are strengthened.
In love, our hearts are freed.
In God, grace and love are ours.

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 remain in the Sanctuary for the month of August.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Write the names of neighbors who you are grateful for and who need more of God's grace, love, and justice. Bring your prayer tag forward and attach it to the prayer tree.

Song

You've Got a Friend
By Carole King

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.**

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 22. 37 – 40 NRSV

He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

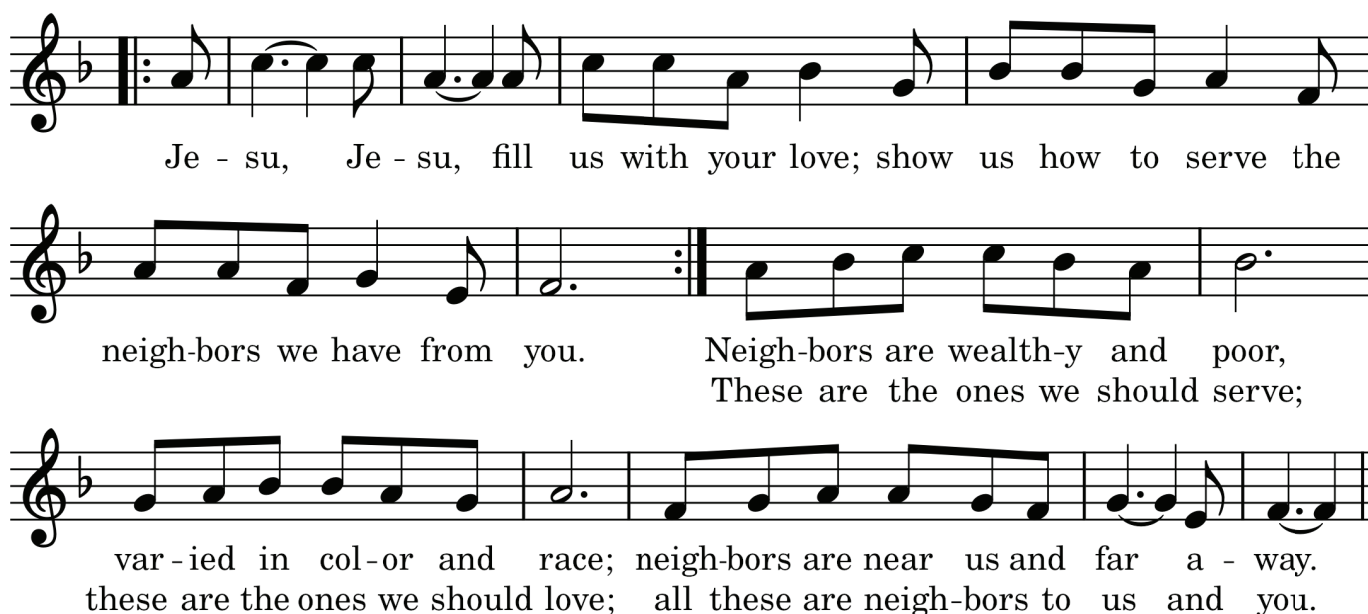
RESPONSE to the WORD

Presentation of a Parable and Wondering in Community

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Song for Preparing the Table

Jesu, Jesu



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the
neigh-bors we have from you. Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor,
These are the ones we should serve;
var-ied in col-or and race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.
these are the ones we should love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering

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.



Communion Music

Bridge Over Troubled Water
by Simon & Garfunkel

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song *They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love*
Glory to God #300

Benediction

One: In the end, I want my heart to be covered in stretch marks. By Andrea Gibson
Bring loving compassion to your homes.
Bring loving compassion to your neighborhoods.
Bring loving compassion to everyone you meet.
Go as God's blessings to the world.

All: Amen.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Storyteller: Di Pagel

Liturgist: Cole Provost

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Prinz Family (Matt, Susannah, Ruby, Monrovia)

Registration Ends TODAY for the Fall Retreat

Registration closes today for our Fall Church retreat. We hope that you sign up today so that you can 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:



First Church Has a Ball at the Oakland B's Game on Sunday, July 27



Our Music Director's Graduate School Journey

By Jake Fontana

Many of you know that I am studying at a clinical psychology program, where I am training to become a licensed therapist. I've just finished my third year studying at the Wright Institute in Berkeley, where I'm working on earning a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD). A PsyD is like a psychology PhD but focuses on clinical training instead of conducting research.

As part of the program, I've been working at different practicum sites in our community each year, so that I can get practice and receive training as a therapist. This month I am finishing a year of work at the outpatient clinic of Richmond Area Multi-Services (RAMS), a San Francisco nonprofit which works with underserved populations in the city, particularly immigrants, refugees, and Asian Americans in need of services. My clinic is an amazing environment where many of my fellow trainees are international students or from immigrant families themselves, bringing their own experiences and cultural backgrounds to their practice. I learn a lot from working in a place where, at any moment, the people around me could be speaking Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, Spanish, French, German, and more. We dedicate a lot of time to discussing how critical a person's culture is to their story and examining the challenges we face in a society that often rejects difference.

This month I begin practicum training at a community college in Contra Costa County where I also worked during my first year.

I'm returning as a mentor for the incoming first-year trainees, as well as continuing to work as a therapist myself. Working with up-and-coming psychology students is fun and meaningful, and I enjoy giving something back from my own experience. I am also looking forward to working with college students again, who are at a challenging but exciting juncture in their lives, figuring out what kind of people they'd like to be.

While most of my classwork is done, I plan to take electives in the coming year to round out my education. I'll also be working on my dissertation, which is a theoretical exploration of how we make meaning after traumatic experiences. Finally, this September I'll begin applying for internship sites, beginning in the fall of 2026. Internship is a yearlong intensive training experience, and students apply nationwide in the hopes of finding a match. While I have every expectation that I will match with a site in the Bay Area, it's going to be a long and stressful process to apply. If I ever seem a little preoccupied this fall, just know that I should be through the worst of it by the new year! Your good wishes, thoughts, and prayers for a successful match would be much appreciated.



Serving our Schools Together - Sign up for Project Peace Day of Service



Day of Service Summer for Schools!

AUGUST 9, 2025

SATURDAY, 9AM - 12PM



Project Peace envisions a renewed East Bay where even the most vulnerable can flourish. Because this vision is so much larger than any church or organization can accomplish on its own, Project Peace organizes Days of Service to create a larger bigger impact. By collaborating with its network of churches, under-resourced schools, and non-profits Project Peace can complete essential work requested by its community partners.

These quarterly Days of Service occur throughout the year on Saturdays, spanning across dozens of locations throughout the East Bay. Days of Service act as vital links connecting volunteers with important organizations that serve the East Bay's most vulnerable populations, and provides opportunities for volunteers to make a huge and lasting difference in East Bay communities!

Summer For Schools

Backpacks, Books & Supplies.
Summer Donation Drive.



Serve



Bring donated backpacks and school supplies to our school partners on our August 9 Day of Service.

Give



Help us stock up on supplies and support students, teachers, & families across our community!

August 9, 2025

Sat 9am-12pm



Project Peace

www.projectpeace.org/summer



Project Peace is currently in need of more volunteers at West Oakland Middle School. The staff there is super excited but registrations for that site are low - more volunteers are needed to avoid cancellation.

Additionally, many of the schools have requested assistance in collecting backpacks and school supplies for their students. A list of needed supplies is shown on the site.

The First Church community can organize a backpack drive and bring the donations to the Day of Service on August 9. Alternatively, individuals can contribute to the Backpack Fund, and Project Peace will purchase the supplies.

Godly Play News



During the month of August those involved in this ministry take a break and clean the room, check and enrich story supplies and the art response shelves. Additional training is provided for those interested in this approach to spiritual formation.

On Sunday, August 17, Di Pagel, an accredited trainer, will provide a 90 minute in-house session which will include a presentation on the understanding of children's spirituality that undergirds this method of Christian education. There will also be time to learn about why the room is organized the way it is and for participants to "play" with stories. Attending this session does not mean you are committing to becoming involved so all are welcome even for part of the time.

Please let Di know if you hope to attend. You can email her at dianapagel@gmail.com or call 925 324 5271.

Food Ministry Opportunities



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.

Remembering Ann Jones, a Beloved First Church Member



Ann Jones passed away at home on Wednesday morning July 30th surrounded by her husband Rich and sons. Ann grew up at First Presbyterian Oakland and served in many leadership roles through the years. She was known for her kindness, warmth, and loving service to all.

We will be working with Rich to put together an upcoming memorial service to celebrate her life.

Join Faith In Action's Training to Assist Immigrant Communities

Register: <http://bit.ly/3ILDNEU>



EDEN AREA
INDIVISIBLE

SHARING,
EDUCATING,
EMPOWERING

ALAMEDA COUNTY
IMMIGRATION
LEGAL EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP
ACILEP

FAITH IN
ACTION
EAST BAY

Volunteer Rapid Responder Training

4-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug 10th ~ Eden Church, 21455 Birch St., Hayward, CA 94541

- Learn how to help our immigrant communities that will be affected by ICE raids or detention.
- Learn how to assist with presence, documentation of ICE activity like ICE raids or detentions.

INFO: joselin@fiaeastbay.org

Building on more than a decade of work to advance immigrant rights, Faith In Action, East Bay, organizes to keep families together and to support their ability to live and work in the region. A key element of this work is to organize forums that connect immigrants to needed services. Thousands of people participate in immigration forums throughout the year in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Free legal guidance on immigration matters save families hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Please consider attending the volunteer training to assist in restoring justice to the immigrant community.

Celebrate August Birthdays!



Happy birthday to the following people!

August 4: Paulette Eggert

August 5: Steve Flores

August 6: Micah Ogden

August 7: Sean Ekwoge

August 11: Nicole Provost

August 13: Stella Ekwoge

August 17: Taylor Gardner

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



Scan this code with your smart phone for access to all First Church News and past editions of *Temple Tidings*

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

Derrick Polk, Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu,

Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine

Irmiter, Pam Prinz

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

matt@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

joelmackey@comcast.net

Jake Fontana, Music Director

jake@firstchurchoakland.org

Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

micheline@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3810

Hours: Wednesday 2-4:30/Thursday 9-2:30

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

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Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

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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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