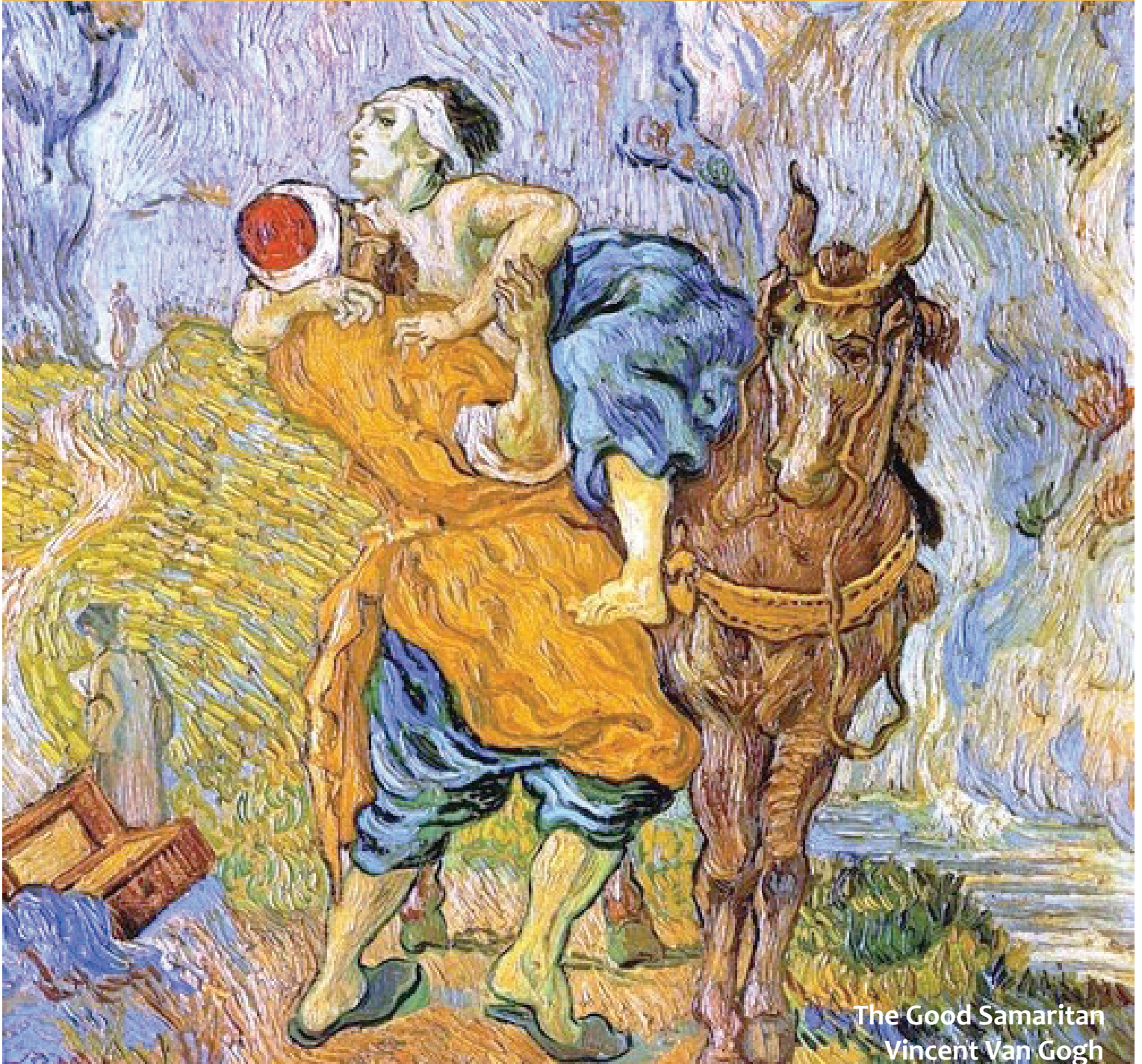


Sunday, August 17, 2025

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

You'll Never Walk Alone

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We gather as God's people.

All: God has given us faith and hope.

One: God's message of love is with us.

All: We give thanks with joy to our God!

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy One, we gather as your people, giving thanks that we can be together to hear your word, offer our prayers, and sing your praises. Draw us together in your love, that we may know you more deeply. Open our hearts to a deeper understanding of your will, and work within our lives, that we may produce the fruit of compassion.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

*I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table
Glory to God #770*

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

Confession

One: God, we want to measure up to your hopes for us. Open our eyes to see the places in our world where our compassion can help. Give us loving hearts, that we might reach out to our neighbors when they are in need. Grant us the courage to take risks for the sake of your kingdom. Help us to live lives that are worthy of you.

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: God sets us free through Jesus, and forgives our sins. We live in the light of God's love.

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.

P R A Y E R S 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.

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the

neighbors we have from you. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
These are the ones we should serve;

var - ied in col - or and race; neighbors are near us and far a - way.
these are the ones we should love; all these are neighbors to us and you.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 10. 25 - 37 New Living Translation

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”]

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’”

“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

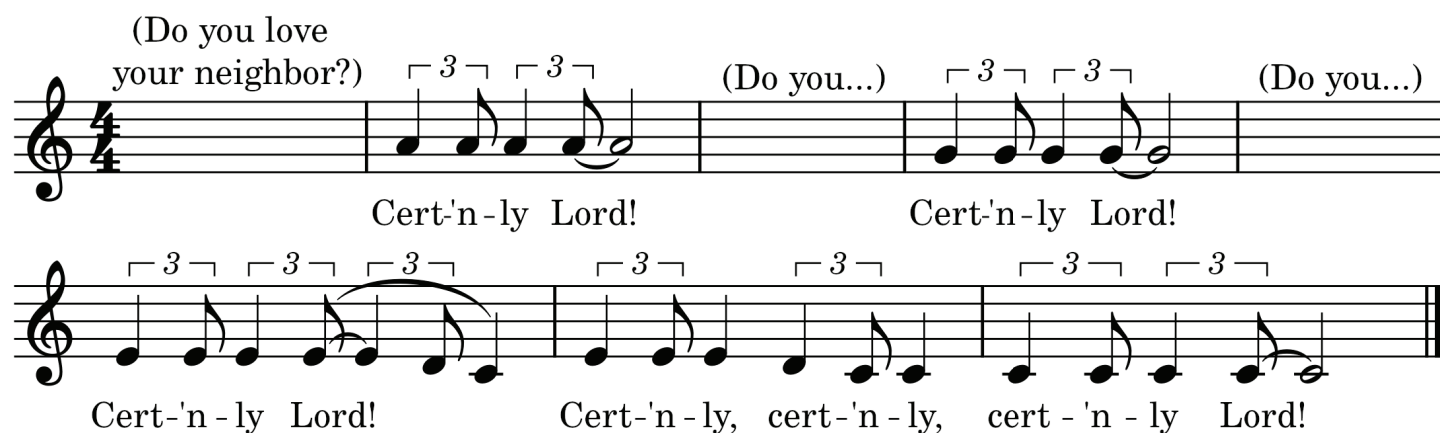
One: For the Word in Scripture, the Word made flesh and the Word in our hearts.

All: Thanks be to God.

Interview - How do we neighbor well?

Song

Certainly, Lord



Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The bread of heaven is here, leading us into life.

All: We draw strength from the bread of life.

One: The cup of blessing is at hand, bringing us salvation.

All: We find life in the cup of salvation.

One: Eat and drink, for Christ is here, offering us eternal life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering

Please come forward when invited by ushers. Communion is non alcoholic and gluten free. Donations can be placed in the offering plate.

Donations may also be made using this QR Code:



Communion Music

Life's a Happy Song

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
Glory to God #700*

Benediction

In the end, I want my heart to be covered in stretch marks

By Andrea Gibson

Poem

The man asks what I think
the US should be doing about Syria
and I wonder how to answer that
from here - where the planes
overhead mean tropical vacations,
where looking up is what we do
to feel hopeful,
not what we do to decide
when to tell our children
to run from the air,
to hide the sunrise of their lungs.
My mother never had to teach me
that to breathe is to die, so I imagine
her hand covering my mouth
in the dark of our basement,
tasting her palm salted
with terror. I imagine
because to not imagine
is its own missile, its own gas,
its own horrid war.
I imagine because Syria is 6,677 miles away
but would still be called our neighbor
if her children were as white as our eyes.

I know the white of the eye
is the part that does not see.
The closest I might ever come to war
is the turning of my head.
Apathy is intimate, like singing a lullaby
to a grenade,
then drinking yourself to sleep
while it sneaks out the window
to explode a boy. I heard
there is a town outside of Damascus,
years battered by shelling and airstrikes,
where a father turned rocket debris
into brightly painted swings.
Where children build their joy
on what aimed for their body's dust.
I heard one girl's laughter swoops
high above the rest, her right
hand missing from a missile
that hit the market.
What do I think we should be doing
about Syria? Imagining until we grieve.
Grieving until we act
like we know what kind of laughter
is the sound of the beginning
of the end of the world.

Until We Act

By Andrea Gibson

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

Liturgist: Aaron Ruff

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Guest Soloists: Eva Chandler and Susannah Prinz

Head Usher: Di Pagel

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Maggie Harmon

Sunday Service in the Courtyard



First Church Community Remembers Our Dear Friend, Ann Jones

Linda Carter

Ann was a kind woman who never had a bad word to say about anyone. She had a quiet, understated dignity and tremendous strength of character and she was devoted to Rich. She had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. I remember when she and I talked about hip replacement surgery during Fellowship Hour; I was scheduled and she was back from surgery and attempted to put my fears at ease. Her good intentions went awry - she said they gave her an epidural and she remembered laying there and hearing them sawing and hammering away but she didn't care at all. That was enough for me to make sure that I was completely sedated!

She was a devoted member of the Lakeshore Women's Club and was a tireless presence in the church kitchen when we put on our annual fundraiser. She will be missed.



Di Pagel

Ann was wonderful to work alongside at church and in 2007 when I arrived at the church she was chairing "Fellowship" and active in the ministry of hospitality. Hosting a Seder dinner had become a tradition during Holy Week and Ann was the calm presence in the kitchen guiding us all through the various steps to produce this ritual meal. She always managed to keep her sense of humor in the midst of the occasional chaos that could happen in a busy kitchen! I think her sense of gracious hospitality and her humor will always be the two characteristics of her spirit that will stay with me always. She became one of my dear friends never to be forgotten.





Anne Margaret Manay

One of my fondest memories of Ann is of the day we brought our newborn son home to California after his birth in Alabama. She and Rich picked us up from the airport. I can still picture her holding our son in the baggage claim at SFO while we gathered our luggage. It felt especially poignant as both she and I became mothers via adoption. She and Rich continued to be an extra set of grandparents during our son's early years, as Siddharth and I had no family on the west coast at that time. We will never forget her loving and generous presence in our lives.



Matthew Inadomi

Suzie and I were looking for a church that was welcoming and I, in particular, was looking for a church that reminded me of the church I grew up in Southern California. When we found First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, there were many aspects that felt right about it, but most of all, what we've come to love are the people.

At the top of that list is Ann Jones.

From the first time we met her, she welcomed us like family with her warm smile, calming voice and genuine personality. We've had the pleasure of knowing her and Rich for almost 30 years, but even from the beginning, she and Rich made us feel like one of the family. And that included her cooking.

We've enjoyed her hospitality all these years through her varied dishes she shared so many years through the Fellowship Committee. We always felt her love through her cooking and, to this day, one of our favorite dishes to make is her enchilada casserole.

Our lives have been blessed knowing Ann and we'll carry on her love through our fellowship with others.



First Church Community Remembers Our Dear Friend, Ann Jones

Diane Hill

Ann Jones was a lovely person with a twinkle in her eyes and an infectious laugh. I worked with Ann on several church activities:

150th Anniversary Committee - 2003 (Our Church was established in 1853): Ann Jones co-chaired the Anniversary Committee, along with husband Rich Jones and Rev. Bob Williams. In December 2002, a committee of 11 was formed of the church family. Ann pulled the committee together in December for anniversary celebrations that began the first of March 2003, and included a Reception, Gala Banquet, tour of the Sanctuary, and a program of music and speakers on March 29, 2003 in the Fellowship Hall.

Wedding Coordinator: Ann was Wedding Coordinator at First Church, and I worked with her on the weddings. Before she retired, she trained me to become the Wedding Coordinator and we worked well together. She was always gracious in dealing with people and we had some lovely weddings because of her caring ways.

Lakeshore Women:

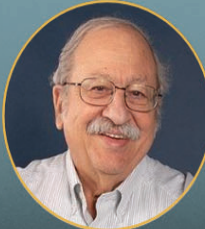
Ann was an active member of the Lakeshore Women, a group of church women who supported First Church with many donations, i.e., the curtains in the Fellowship Hall, etc.

I miss her.

Join PICO for The Time is Now: A Democratic & Spiritual Revival




MODERATOR
JOSEPH TOMÁS MCKELLAR


MARSHALL GANZ


RABBI SUSAN GOLDBERG


BISHOP DWAYNE ROYSTER

THE TIME IS NOW:
A Democratic & Spiritual Revival
Tuesday, Sept. 10 5:30 - 7 PM PT - Via Zoom

HA LLEGADO EL MOMENTO:
Un Renacimiento Democrático y Espiritual
Martes, 10 de septiembre 5:30 - 7pm PT - Vía Zoom

Across this country, we are facing a profound moral crisis. Families are being stripped of health care. Food assistance is being cut. Our social safety net is being dismantled – not because we lack the resources, but because our politics have abandoned care, community, and compassion. In moments like this, we must ask: what would it take

to spark a democratic revival? How can we come together with both strategy and spirit – guided by our values, our faith, and our hope for something better? To register, please go to:

<https://form.jotform.com/252057825122048>

Support Mandela Partners: Come to the Third Annual Family Meal!



This one-night event features a family-style meal prepared by the current participants of our **Culinary Employment Pathways**, a paid training program that connects community members facing barriers to employment to food jobs with a living wage, a supportive work environment, and professional growth opportunities.

The dinner will be held on Tuesday, September 9 from 5:30p.m.-8:30pm at understory oakland, 3340 International Blvd.

In addition to giving live dinner service experience before their paid internships at local food businesses, Mandela Partners is raising \$20,000 to both support the program and our Microgreens Fund, which provides financial assistance to program participants in times of need.

While earning \$21/hour throughout the program, program participants can also access microgrants of up to \$800 from this fund, which can be used for key needs such as car repairs, medical and legal bills, and housing. Since its launch in 2020, the Mandeval Partners' Culinary Employment Pathways program has worked with nearly 115 participants, roughly half of whom are returning home from incarceration, provided more than \$300,000 in wages and provided grants from the Microgreens Fund to 24 participants, starting in 2022.

So make your reservation today and enjoy great food and drinks in community while supporting a good cause! Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner service starts at 6:00pm.

To sign up, please go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/SupportMandela> or scan this code with your phone:





First Church partnered with Project Peace to provide 20 backpacks with supplies to Lockwood Elementary.

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

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

jake@firstchurchoakland.org

Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

micheline@firstchurchoakland.org

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Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

joan@firstchurchoakland.org

Temple Tidings

Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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