

Sunday, August 24, 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

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength,
and with all of your mind.

All: We will worship God, the one we love.

One: Love your neighbor as yourself.

All: We will open our hearts to all God's children.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of power and might, turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. For only in
loving can we lead lives worthy of your calling. Fill us with your grace and peace, that
we may know the richness of eternal life in your Spirit. In Jesus name.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

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

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 of love, forgive us when we turn from you and your will for our lives. We easily forget your great love for us, and all you have done for us. Open our hearts to receive your love, that with joy we may celebrate your forgiveness and share your good news with all the world.

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's love for us has no limits. Because of that love, we are forgiven through Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate the gift of new life.

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.

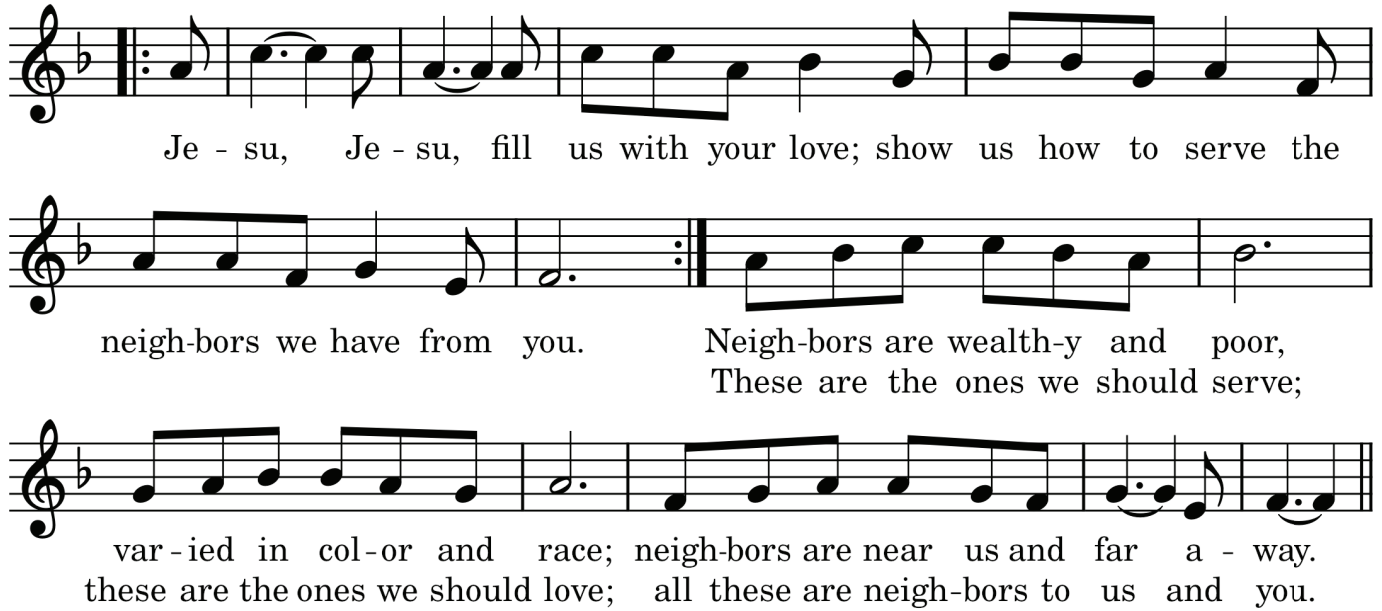
**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song

Jesu, Jesu



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;
varied in color and race; neighbors are near us and far away.
these are the ones we should love; all these are neighbors to us and you.

Testimony of Loving Neighbors

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 10. 25 - 37 J.B. Phillips translation

Then one of the experts in the Law stood up to test him and said, “Master, what must I do to be sure of eternal life?”

“What does the Law say and what has your reading taught you?” said Jesus.

“The Law says, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind’, and ‘your neighbour as yourself’,” he replied.

“Quite right,” said Jesus. “Do that and you will live.”

But the man, wanting to justify himself, continued, “But who is my ‘neighbour’?” And Jesus gave him the following reply: “A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He fell into the hands of bandits who stripped off his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. A Levite also came on the scene and when he saw him, he too passed by on the other side. But then a Samaritan traveller came along to the place where the man was lying, and at the sight of him he was touched with pity. He went across to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on

oil and wine. Then he put him on his own mule, brought him to an inn and did what he could for him. Next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the words, 'Look after him, will you? I will pay you back whatever more you spend, when I come through here on my return.' Which of these three seems to you to have been a neighbour to the bandits' victim?"

"The man who gave him practical sympathy," he replied. "Then you go and give the same," returned Jesus.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Conversation – How do we love our neighbors well?

Song

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
Glory to God #729

Invitation to the Offering

One: You shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. This love motivates our giving. As God has loved us, we return that love in our offering of energy, time, and resources.

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

God Loves Everyone
by Leon Bridges

Prayer for the Offering

One: Bountiful God, your love bears the fruit of hope and grace; your ways lead to fullness of life. May today's offering bear fruit in our world, that your love may cause old hatreds to cease, old wounds to heal and old divisions to mend.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Glory to God #775

Benediction

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

Poem

God Loves Everyone
Leon Bridges

God loves the birds and the bees
God loves the stoners and freaks
And the girls on the street
Just the same as you and me

Old men and the young and the strange
School kid looking out at the rain
Cops on the beat and the crooks in the cage
Just the same

God loves everyone
Everybody under the sun
God loves everyone
Just the same, oh

God sees all the folks on their own
God knows what it's like to be cold
And the winners and losers and player and
fool
For the game

God loves everyone
Everybody under the sun
God loves everyone
Just the same, oh
Just the same

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Di Pagel

Testimony: Julia Marquez

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Tiffany Wood

Guest Pianist: Joe Warner

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Di Pagel

First Church Students Excited about Going Back to School



Practices of our Church Community – Ways to Join Us

Worship Service Each Sunday we gather at 10am to sing, pray, confess, and worship God together. We invite our community to participate in our worship services through singing, reading, praying, ushering, or sharing testimony. Do you like to write prayers or help connect music to themes in scripture? Talk with Di Pagel (Elder of Worship), Jake Fontana (Music Director) or Pastor Matt if you would like to help lead/design our worship services. You can also help us create space for conversation and building community through providing food during our coffee hour (11-12). Talk with Julia Marquez if you would like to contribute.



Food Ministry Each week, more than 40 volunteers share over 300 meals with our neighbors through our food ministry. Volunteers gather donated food on Fridays and Saturdays from local supermarkets and bakeries. Meals are prepared on Sundays and Mondays and are shared with neighbors and delivered to local encampments. We have opportunities to serve during the week, each Saturday, and Sunday. Talk with Gay Cobb or Dorothy Dugger or Nina Lapachet to get involved.

Bible Study Wednesday nights at 7pm via Zoom we gather around the sacred texts of scripture to study and reflect upon our lives and take new steps of faithfulness together. No need to study beforehand, just sign up for our weekly emails, click on the Zoom link and join conversation. Come with a desire to build community and listen for God's Spirit in the midst of scripture. Talk with Henry Gardner or Maggie Harmon or Pastor Matt for more details.



Building the Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. constantly spoke about God's work of building the beloved community - a community bridging across the differences of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability. Building the Beloved Community is one lens we use to look at all of our ministry at First Church. We also host conversations, book groups, attend concerts and art shows, to learn, reflect, and to help us build God's beloved community within our church community, in our neighborhoods, and city. Talk with Suzie Inadomi, Pastor Matt or Pastor Joel to learn about ways to join BBC work at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.



Community Life - God is community Three in one and we are made for community. Creating spaces for community around meals, discussion groups, backyard firepits, and outings together (A's game, beach etc.) are an important ministry within our church community. Do you like to host events, love connecting with others, enjoy building community? Talk with Julia Marquez or Pastor Matt and join them in planning our next community life events.



Faith in Action "Justice is what love looks like in the public." Cornel West. How do we put our faith into action to love our neighbors? One way we live out our faith is joining the ministries of Faith in Action East Bay, who for over 40 years have advocated and worked in areas of gun violence, immigration, education, housing, and equity in Oakland and the larger Bay Area. Members of First Pres. regularly join FIA Ceasefire night walks, advocate for affordable housing, and seek to support new structural changes for equity and justice. Talk with Pastor Matt to get involved and our new community organizer Chris Logan.



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 Mandela 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:



Communion and Bag Lunch Assembly in the Fellowship Hall



Community Support Opportunity

First Church recently partnered with Project Peace to provide 20 backpacks with school supplies to students at Lockwood Elementary in West Oakland. Did you know that each backpack with basic supplies costs about \$80? The church budget sponsored this as part of our local ministry work but your gift to offset the cost allows us to direct more resources to additional projects. You can write a check, give online, or text to give (set up once and it's simple after that).



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

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email to make an appointment

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

jake@firstchurchoakland.org

Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

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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.

Sign up to be on our email list:

firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings