

Sunday, September 21, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Wayne Theibaud

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

Für Elise

Ludwig van Beethoven

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God calls us to be people of the Spirit.

All: We are people filled with love, joy, peace, and patience.

One: God calls us to live by the Spirit.

All: We are people practicing kindness and generosity, faithfulness and gentleness

One: God calls us to be beloved children.

All: We are children of promise—people of God's glorious hope.

One: Come! Let us worship.

Gathering Prayer

One: Come to us, Holy One, when we have need of you, for we feel abandoned and alone. You alone can comfort us. You alone can lead us through waters of grief and loss. You alone can help us reach other shores and find our way home. As we gather to worship you this day, give us the courage to ask for your Spirit. In your faithful name, we pray.

All: Amen.

Song

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
African American Heritage Hymnal #371

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Gracious God, bestower of every good gift, we long to know true freedom in Christ and to taste the fruit of your Spirit, but we are constantly drawn to our selfish desires and petty quarrels; we yearn to love our neighbors as ourselves and to know perfect forgiveness in that love, but we cling to old wounds and hold onto old injuries. Help us live by your Spirit: that our lives may be filled with the fruit of your Spirit through Christ our Lord.

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: Christ came to set us free, that we might have life and have it abundantly. Live in the Spirit, and the Spirit will guide you in truth and grace. Rejoice in the assurance of God's faithful 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 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 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

Holy Spirit, Come to Us



Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Galatians 5. 22 - 25 NRSV

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

Pastor Matt will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon.

Song

I've Got Peace Like a River
African American Heritage Hymnal #492

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. 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

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*When Peace like a River
Glory to God #840*

Benediction

One: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.

All: Give us this fruit always, God.

One: The fruit of the Spirit is patience, kindness, and generosity.

All: Feed us with your Spirit, Holy One.

One: The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All: Lead us to life, Spirit of the living God.

One: The fruit of the Spirit leads us home.

All: Lead on, Spirit, time is precious to us. Amen

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: Henry Gardner

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Guest Pianist: Myles Ogden

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Sarah and Paul Roberts

Congratulations to our Newest Church Members!

Please ask our new members to share with you:

- 1) What's one important moment from their faith journey?
- 2) Why did they want to join First Presbyterian Church, Oakland?



Nancy Ogden



Susannah and Monrovia Prinz



Sarah and Paul Roberts



Aaron Ruff

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 chances for equity and justice. Talk with Pastor Matt to get involved and our new community organizer Chris Logan.



Join the American Federation for Suicide Prevention Out of the Darkness Walk on Saturday, October 18

You and your family are invited to join the American Federation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Walk on Saturday, October 18. The walk starts at Snow Park at the corner of 19 & Harrison near Lake Merritt.

Check In starts at 6 a.m. and the walk starts at 7 a.m.
Event Start Time: 7:00 AM (PDT)

Suicide prevention starts with everyday people. By connecting with others, you can help save lives. The Out of the Darkness Walks are happening across the country and these events give people the courage to open up about their own connections to the cause, and a platform to raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention.

Stewardship News & Reflections

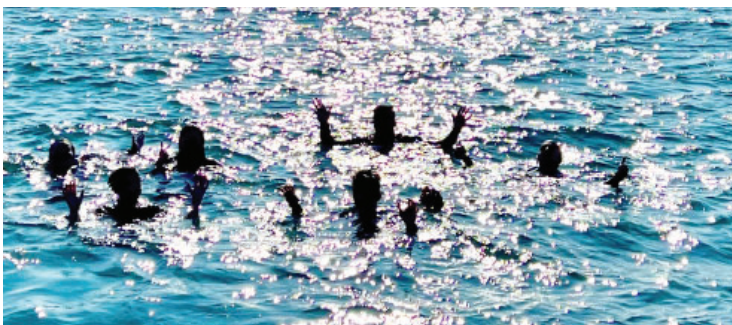
By Maggie Harmon

Here in California we are in a literal season of harvest, fruit that has grown all summer is being picked to become wine, apple pie, pumpkin soup, gifts of the earth that nourish our body and spirit.

"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."
Proverbs 3:9-10

Though we are not all farmers we can consider the ways in which we 'harvest' good fruit that sustains us, and with gratitude for this nourishment offer up part of our bounty that others may share and our spirit can be even further filled.

Church Retreat Sept 26-28



Friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers walk side-by-side, supporting each other and in memory of those we've lost. Register today and be part of the movement. Visit afspwalks.donordrive.com/Oakland for more information and to register.

Kleenex Drive for Local Teachers

Teachers have to buy many of their own supplies for their classrooms. We are collecting boxes of Kleenex as a creative way to support and encourage our local teachers. Please bring boxes of tissues to church each Sunday in the month of September and we will distribute them to schools.



The First Church retreat will take place from September 26-28 at Zephyr Point.

If you are not coming to the retreat, you are invited to attend the 10 a.m. service at College Ave. Presbyterian Church, located at 5951 College Ave in Oakland.

Mandela Partners Cohort Graduates and Begins Restaurant Work



Mandela Partners Family Meal to celebrate the work of their current learning cohort. The culinary employment pathway creates pathways to employment with local food businesses by providing paid kitchen and culinary training for community members facing barriers to employment, with a focus on the re-entry

population. Cohort members will now intern at local restaurants for the next two months.

First Presbyterian Church was appreciated at the family meal for creating an affordable kitchen for the cohort to learn culinary skills. and loving service to all.

Deacons Prepare Care Packages for First Church College Students

College can be a difficult time away from family, friends, and support systems. We support our college students through care packages, letters, and visits to their campus. We are putting together Fall care packages for eight students and are inviting donations. Here is a list of items - hand lotion, small candle, chapstick, candy, breath mints, fun socks, halloween decoration, starbucks gift card (\$15), beanie, good pens, something with the word Oakland on it.

If you would like to join us - purchase 8 of one of these items and give them to Pam Prinz or Pastor Matt. Thank you!



Jack and Grace First Day of School



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

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

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Temple Tidings

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