

Sunday, October 12, 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

Ciacona in F Minor
Johann Pachelbel

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: People of faith, come and see what God has done!

All: God has guided us and walked with us.

One: See how God has protected us.

All: God has brought us to this sacred place.

One: Let us give glory to God!

All: Let us sing praises to God!

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy One, we gather to sing your praises. We are grateful for the gift of this day and all the ways you make your presence known. We are grateful for your abiding Spirit and the ways the Spirit empowers us to be your people. In this time of worship, deepen our faith. Restore our souls and heal us. After we have spent time here, send us to share your love and grace with everyone we meet. In the name of Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

Song

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
African American Heritage Hymnal #563

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Gracious God, there are times in our lives when we turn away from you, when we mess up, when we push aside the needs of our community, and when we ignore your presence in our lives. It is during these times that we cry out, "Have mercy on us!" In your loving, forgiving way, reach out to heal us, forgive us, and renew us. May your everlasting faith strengthen our resolve to follow Christ's ways.

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: Know that there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Rejoice and be glad, for God's compassion comes speedily to meet us.

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

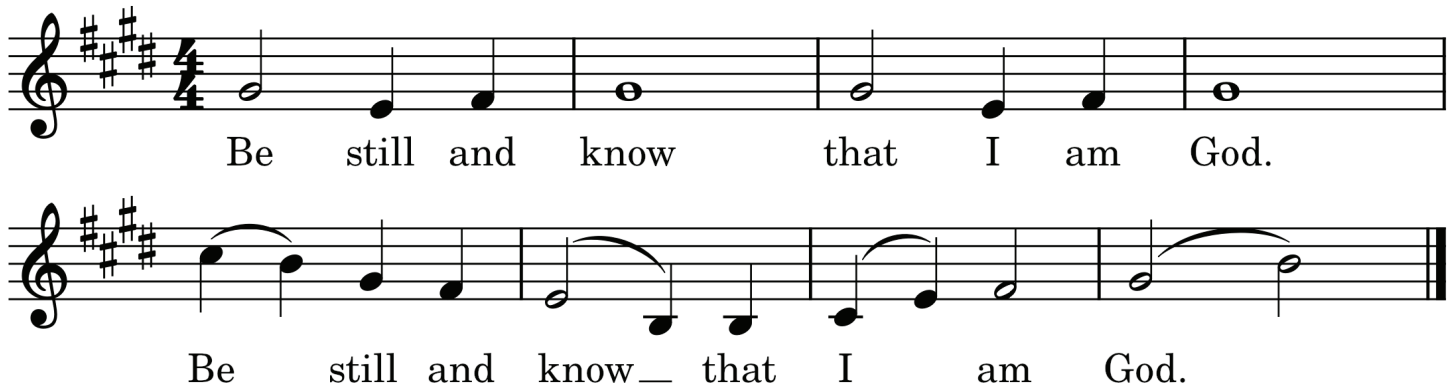
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

Be Still and Know



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 29. 1, 4-7 NRSV

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

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

Reflection

Song

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

Invitation to the Offering

One: God has done amazing things in our lives. Now is the time to offer our gratitude for all the blessings we have received. With thanks and praise, let us offer our gifts to 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.



Music at the Offering

*Song For R
The Be Good Tanyas*

Doxology

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

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayer for the Offering

One: You call us to be wise with our riches, God, that your realm may be blessed for the benefit of all. May we be found faithful in a little, that you may entrust us to be faithful in much. We offer you these gifts in gratitude for your love. May they bring your healing and light to those who need the balm of Gilead.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Glory to God #39

Benediction

One: Siblings in Christ, as you go from this place, may your faith grow stronger.

All: We will share the good news of Christ's healing love with the community.

One: Go in peace.

All: Amen.



Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson is the Minister of Formation at Oakland City Church - a community that seeks to be People Who Don't Belong Together, Gathered Around Jesus, For the Sake of Those That Don't Belong. Riana expanded the church's City Engagement partnerships and spearheaded efforts to help the community live more deeply into its anti-racist values through teaching, relationship building, and listening. She is called to name the work and abiding hope necessary to create the Beloved Community.

Riana is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America. She holds a Masters of Divinity at Pacific School of Religion and a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from Mills College. Before stepping into vocational ministry, Riana worked at various non-profits that focused on racial, social, and environmental justice. She served on the Steering Committee of the Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy and is passionate about faith-rooted advocacy.

Riana is an East Bay native and currently lives in Oakland with her husband, 8-year-old son, and three-year-old twins. She is extremely proud of her oldest daughter who is a senior at Howard University in Washington DC.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson

Liturgist: Maggie Harmon

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Aaron Ruff and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Lachlan Welch

We're Making STONE SOUP on October 26

Perhaps you are familiar with the folktale of Stone Soup. It is the story of a hungry traveler who comes to a village and places a large pot of water and a stone in the town square. As a villager comes by to inquire, the traveler invites him to share the delicious soup when it is ready, "But it would really taste better with a little bit of salt." The villager willingly brings salt to add to the soup. Other villagers come by and each is invited to contribute an ingredient and share the meal. The story ends with the whole village enjoying a delicious stone soup.

On Sunday, October 26 we will be preparing Stone Soup for a pot luck meal after worship service. The soup pot will be on the stove in the kitchen before service. You may bring an ingredient to add to the pot or a side dish or dessert to share.

Stone Soup



Sign ups will be in the reception room during coffee hour today and next week. Let's enjoy this truly community meal together.

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!



First Church Retreat Brings Community Closer Together





Poems from Fall Retreat *Holding onto Hope*

Dreams by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow

Hope is the thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -
And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -
I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me

Blessing of Hope by Jan Richardson

So may we know the hope
that is not just for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:
hope not made of wishes
but of substance,
hope made of sinew
and muscle and bone,
hope that has breath
and a beating heart,
hope that will not keep quiet
and be polite,
hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for,
hope that knows how to sing
when there seems little cause,

hope that raises us from the dead—
not someday but this day,
every day, again and
again and again.

The Journey by Mary Oliver

One day you finally knew
what you had to do, and began,
though the voices around you
kept shouting their bad advice—
though the whole house
began to tremble
and you felt the old tug
at your ankles.
“Mend my life!”
each voice cried.
But you didn’t stop.
You knew what you had to do,
though the wind pried
with its stiff fingers
at the very foundations,
though their melancholy was terrible.
It was already late enough, and a wild night,
and the road full of fallen
branches and stones.
But little by little,
as you left their voices behind,
the stars began to burn
through the sheets of clouds,
and there was a new voice which you slowly
recognized as your own,
that kept you company
as you strode deeper and deeper
into the world,
determined to do
the only thing you could do—
determined to save
the only life you could save.



Joan Clerk Retires after a Decade of Service as Church Bookkeeper



It is with much gratitude that we said goodbye to Joan Clerk, who retired on September 30th at 84 years old! She served as the bookkeeper and so much more for over a decade. Anyone who had the opportunity to work with Joan knows that when you had an office question, “ask Joan” very often led you to the answer.

You can email your appreciation to Joan at clerkjoan9@gmail.com, I am sure she will be very happy to hear from friends in our congregation.

Coffee Hour Fun and Fellowship



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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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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510.488.3810

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

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

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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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