

Sunday, November 2, 2025

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Art by Wayne Thiebaud

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

Andante in C Major
Flor Peeters

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: God of our forbearers, you turn our world upside down. You teach us that neither wealth, nor social status, nor reputation can lead us to life. You remind us to focus on your kingdom, where the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, and those persecuted for the gospel receive your blessing. Help us follow the example of the saints, that we may enjoy the good life, by living as Christ taught us to live.

All: Amen.

Song

God whose giving knows no ending
Glory to God #716

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Spirit of Truth, feed our hearts from the fullness of your word. We long to embrace the poor, who will inherit your kingdom. We yearn to forsake the lure of earthly riches, lest we forestall your consolation. Turn our failings into a fierce resolve to bear witness to the depth of your truth and the fullness of your grace.

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 Christ, we receive God's redeeming grace. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are sealed with holy love.

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 Family Worship.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Write a word or prayer for what you hope on one side of your prayer tag and word/prayer for what you fear in this season on the other side. Bring your prayer tag forward and attach it to the prayer tree.

Song

Kind & Generous
by Natalie Merchant

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.**

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Galatians 5. 22 – 24 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.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

R E S P O N S E t o t h e W O R D

Reflection

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

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Song for preparing the table

*Come to the Table of Grace
Glory to God #507*

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

*Long After Midnight
Flock of Dimes*

Prayer

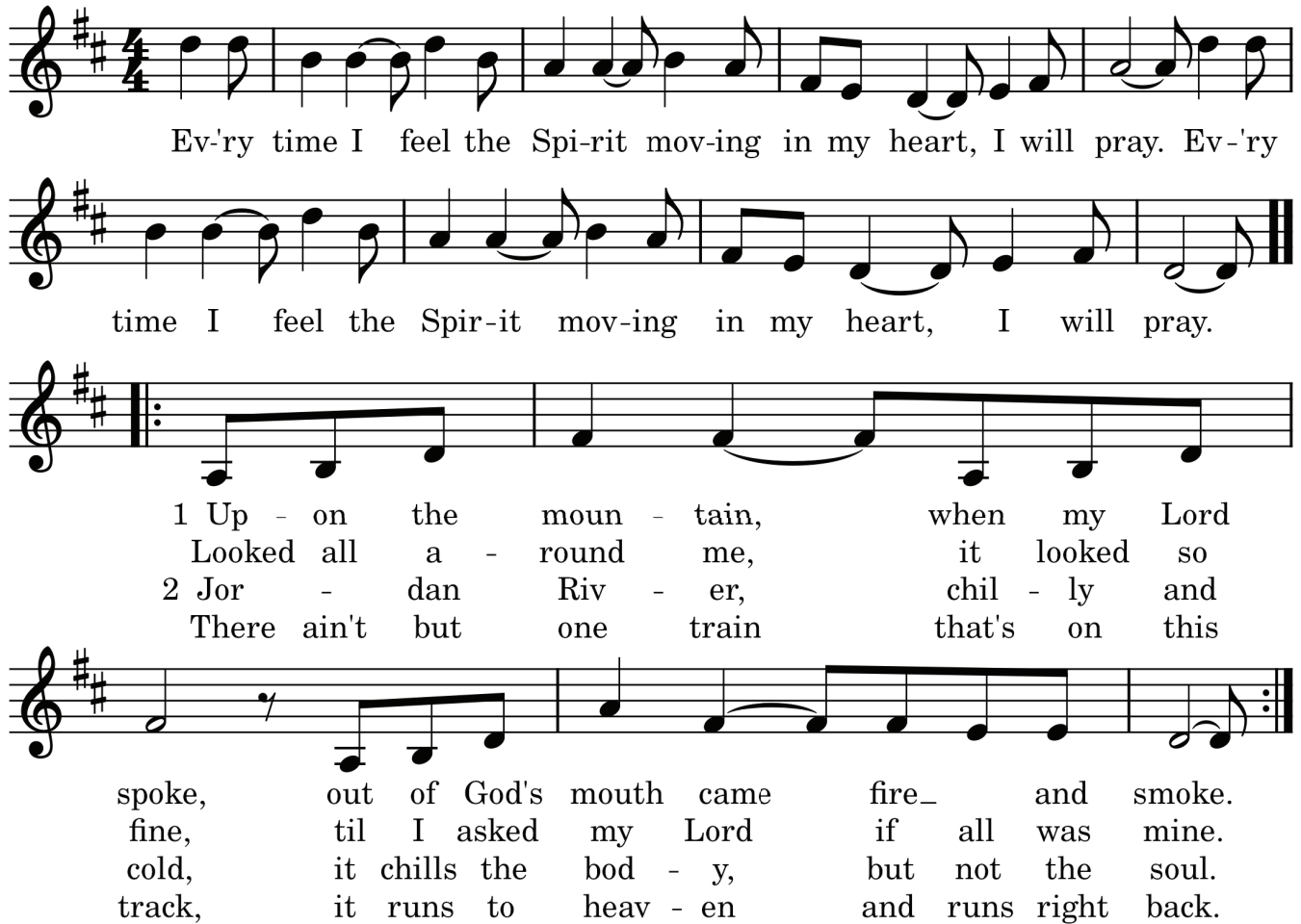
SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Song

Please come forward while singing to stand around the around the Hammond organ as a church community.



Ev-ry time I feel the Spi-rit mov-ing in my heart, I will pray. Ev-'ry
time I feel the Spir-it mov-ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord
Looked all a - round me, it looked so
2 Jor - dan Riv - er, chil - ly and
There ain't but one train that's on this

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire_ and smoke.
fine, til I asked my Lord if all was mine.
cold, it chills the bod - y, but not the soul.
track, it runs to heav - en and runs right back.

Benediction

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: Pauline Ahanotu

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Matt, Susannah, Ruby and Monrovia Prinz

Interfaith Moment Documents Three-Day Convergence in California



Dear Community:

Thank you to everyone who joined us in person, in spirit, online, and in prayer during our powerful 3-day Convergence to Reclaim Our Power / Encuentro por la Dignidad. Whether you were able to be on the ground or held us in your heart from afar, this movement is yours too—and we're so grateful to report back on what unfolded.

Over the three transformative days, more than 200 people came together to bear witness, honor lives impacted by detention and incarceration, and demand an end to the harm caused by private prison corporations like GEO Group and CoreCivic.

Through car caravans, vigils, prayer, art, testimony, music, and movement, we affirmed a truth that cannot be ignored: Every person deserves to live with dignity.

Together with our partners in the Dignity Not Detention Coalition, we created more than a moment—we are building a network

of organizers and communities grounded in justice and compassion, who share a vision of a California where all can thrive.



What Happened Over Three Sacred Days in Kern County:

Day 1 – McFarland

Our journey began in the small farming community of MacFarland, Kern County, where dozens of faith leaders and over 150 neighbors gathered outside Golden State Annex Kern County to demand an end to ICE's cruelty and GEO Group's systemic medical neglect of those detained. We honored the spirit of resistance in this small farmworker community, learned more about their realities on a caravan through town,, and offered our encouragement and solidarity to their ongoing struggle for a community that serves their needs. We ended the night with a beautiful evening prayer vigil where we honored the 16 lives who have died in ICE detention in 2025.

*Since then, 4 more have died in ICE custody, including one in a CA ICE detention center (Calexico).



Day 2 – Bakersfield

At the Bakersfield Museum of Art, we were received by youth and organizers of CIYJA (California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance), through art, danza, music, and learning about the years of hunger strikes and organizing by detained leaders at the two detention centers near Bakersfield. We witnessed the creative and intersectional organizing by local youth and connecting the dots of decolonization, demilitarization and liberation from California to Palestine.



In the afternoon, we marched to the Mesa Verde ICE Detention Center, bringing flowers, songs, and messages of hope. This year marks the first time in five years that women (mothers, daughters, sisters and grandmothers) are once again being detained at Mesa Verde—part of an alarming eightfold increase in the detained population since 2024. Unfortunately, ICE shut-down visitation the whole day, and we were unable to visit community members. Families coming from afar were also turned away, but we were able to spend some important time to connect, pray and support.

As we left flowers on the fence, the community chanted: “No Papers, No Fear. Let our Mothers out of here.” We must shut these harmful places down.



We remembered those lost in detention—like Choung Won Ahn, age 74—who died behind bars. We tied messages and flowers to the fence, transforming grief into sacred resistance.



Day 3 – California City

Our final stop was a bold confrontation with injustice: the illegal expansion of ICE’s largest detention center in California, operated by CoreCivic—a private prison giant profiting from trauma, separation, and exploitation.

Joined by local community members, organizers and advocates , over 40 vehicles caravanned through the Mojave Desert to the CoreCivic ICE Detention Center in California City, where families held up photos of loved ones torn apart by ICE. Family members shared stories of visiting through glass walls and phones that don’t work—painful reminders of a system designed to divide, deny due process, and dehumanize from the most basic form of human connection.



Our songs, chants and and love literally echoed across the desert, sending those inside a clear message: We are with you. You are not alone.

Together, we raised a unified demand:

Deny CoreCivic’s permits. Shut it down. Invest in people, not prisons.



We ended the convergence at the beautiful La Paz, known as the United Farm Workers headquarters —to strategize and coordinate efforts to to reject ICE detention and instead invest in a future grounded in dignity, justice, and community care.



Photos by Peg Hunter and Ipyani Lockert.

Upcoming Oakland Ceasefire Night Walks

Nov. 14 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue

Nov. 21 ~ St. Columba, 6401 San Pablo Avenue

Dec. 12 ~ Tabernacle MBC, 10115 Edes Avenue

Dec. 19 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Walks begin at 6 p.m.

Scan the QR Code
to learn more
about Ceasefire:

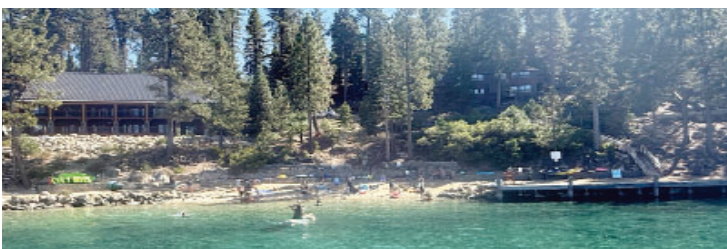


INFO:
alba@fiaeastbay.org



Mark your Calendar for our October 2-4, 2026 Church Retreat

Join us next year at Zephyr Point at Lake Tahoe for an opportunity to gather in a beautiful space, to step away from everyday rhythms of life, to build community with other members, and to connect with God.



Deacon Council Summary of Activities (including plans thru year-end)

Deacons meet monthly to discuss parishioners and those who need special attention and prayers. Deacons support monthly Communion service, helping to set up and prepare the elements as well as put things away. They also assist with Memorial events. Additionally, the deacons discuss community needs outside the congregation and support organizations like Cease Fire, and other organizations providing help to those in need.

Additional activities this years include the following:

February - Pam Prinz joined the Deacon Council. (Barbara Goodroe, Margie Witt completed terms 12/2024). Current number of deacons is eight.

March - Deacons completed several months of gathering updates for the Church Directory, which was then publish and distributed to the congregation on March 16.

April - Prepared and mailed College Student Care Packages to seven students on April 7. During the month, Pastor Matt visited two of the students in Oregon. Also, deacons sent Easter cards to each of their parishioners.

May - Prepared and dropped off end-of-school-year congratulation goodie bags and cards to (2) Middle and (8) High School Students on May 26. Derrick Polk prepared a delicious assortment of treats for each student. Martha Baab added home baked cookies and helped to assemble the bags.

June - Deacons are contacting their parishioners to see if they need a name tag.

July - Cassandra Flipper joined the Deacon Council.

August - Developing an Emergency Contact List for single, senior parishioners

September - Participated in the Ann Jones Memorial Event on September 20, with event coordination, flowers, hospitality, and food serve support.

October - Preparing and mailing Care Packages to eight college students.

November - Support for community holiday outreach

December - Planned Christmas card mailing to the congregation.

January 2026 - Three deacons will be completing their three-year term in December so these spaces need to be filled by the Nominating Committee.



Celebrate November Birthdays!



Please wish the following people a very happy birthday this month:

Nov 4: Chris Kovach
Nov 6: Chloe Reynolds
Nov 24: Katherine Kovach
Nov 26: Siddharth Manay
Nov 28: Margaret Sigurdson
Nov 29: Leah Marquez

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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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, Cassandra Flipper

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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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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