

Sunday, November 9, 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

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart
Frederick Atkinson

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: Bless and heal us, God, for we are stricken in body and in spirit. As we stretch out our hands to touch the hem of your robe, make us well. Course through our minds and bodies with your healing power, as we place our faith in your mighty Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Song

*It is Well with My Soul, verses 1-2
African American Heritage Hymnal #377*

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of Grace, we come to you in search of healing. We come to you in search of peace. We come, often bearing only a tiny seed of hope within, praying that it is enough. Our cries come in the deepest part of the night, and we do not always ask for help. Our hearts bleed just as surely as our bodies, and we do not always recognize the hidden pain of others. Or even our own. Sometimes we struggle to find our faith at all, and forget that doubt, too, is a part of belief. Give us courage enough to speak the truth of our own struggles, and to see and hear and know the struggles of others. Forgive us when we think you only want us if we are perfect. Fill us with your endless supply of love, so that we might try again.

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 gave us his weakness, that we might become strong. He gave us the wealth of his wisdom, that we might know what is true. He offered his own vulnerability, making himself defenseless, that we might actually learn love. It is the faith Christ has given us that has made us well; the power of God's love that heals and redeems. There is forgiveness in God, and a hope that makes us whole.

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 leaders with 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

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

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.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Mark 5. 25 – 34; Galatians 5. 22 - 23 NRSV

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well." Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?"

And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’ ” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

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.

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 Conversation

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

Song

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Glory to God #353

Invitation to the Offering

One: God’s generosity overwhelms us and allows us to be generous. Let us practice generosity together by collecting our tithes and offerings.

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

The Woman Hiding in the Crowd

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God from whom all - bless - ings flow, praise God all
crea-tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove ye heav - en - ly
host, praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

Prayer for the Offering

One: Merciful God, misery and despair touch our world each day. Multiply the gifts we bring before you, that no one may suffer want. And if our fortunes are reversed, may we receive with the same grace and gratitude we have offered this day.

All: Amen.

Testimony

Why I Pledge to the Ministries of First Church Oakland

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

*Great is Thy Faithfulness
Glory to God #39*

Benediction

One: Go in the hope and promise of God.

All: We will share God's love and grace.

One: Go in the wholeness of life with Christ.

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

One: Go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: We will share the Spirit of peace with the world.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Dorrie Dodge

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Pledge Testimony: Henry Gardner

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Raenelle Tauro and Monrovia Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Pam and Tom Prinz

Renowned Organist, Mark Miller, to Perform on February 7, 2026

By Jake Fontana

This February we will have the pleasure of welcoming organist and composer Mark Miller to First Church. Mark will visit us on Saturday, February 7th to lead a choral workshop and concert in honor and in celebration of Black History Month.

Mark is a graduate of Juilliard and Yale University who is equally at home in classical, gospel, and contemporary styles, and his music blends all three. You will have heard his music here already in anthems like “Child of God,” “We Resist (Prayer Chant),” and “Lament”. Our choir has been working hard on his music for almost a year. Mark often writes his own lyrics for his songs, and many of the texts emphasize themes of social justice and building the beloved community.

I first met Mark while studying sacred music at Yale, where he opened my eyes to the richness of liturgical music in a breadth of traditions and genres. Before meeting Mark, my musical background focused on the ancient and the classical -- it was wonderful music to learn and perform, but it was a small slice of the profession and of great church music. If you’ve ever heard me play a cool chord on the piano or a good gospel shuffle on the Hammond, it’s probably because Mark taught me to!

We are collaborating with Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church to bring Mark to the Bay Area. Their choir will join ours for the Saturday workshop and concert, and Mark will worship with LOPC on Sunday morning.



LOPC’s choir director, Bryan Dunnewald, is a good friend and colleague, and I hope this concert will be an opportunity for our choirs and congregations to get to know one another better through music and fellowship. If you’d like to be involved in welcoming Mark and LOPC to our church, please be in touch.

I hope you will plan to attend the concert (and afterparty!) on February 7th, which will be a great way to dive into Black History Month with song, prayer, poetry, and more. I am thrilled to have Mark join us, and I’m sure it will be a wonderful event for our church and community.

In the words of Mark’s music, “draw the circle wide, draw it wider still!”

First Church Staff Appreciation Sunday - November 23



During the month of November the congregation is invited to help put together gift baskets for each staff member as a way to say thank you for all they do. Possible contributions: gift certificates, candles, soaps, note paper, preserves, home baked cookies, seasonal paper napkins, coffee beans, or teas.

The baskets will be put together with cards on Sunday, November 23. If you are interested in participating contact Di Pagel at 925.324.5271 or dianapagel@gmail.com for ideas and suggestions. Thank you for helping make this a special Thanksgiving for them all.



Jake Fontana



Marie Henderson

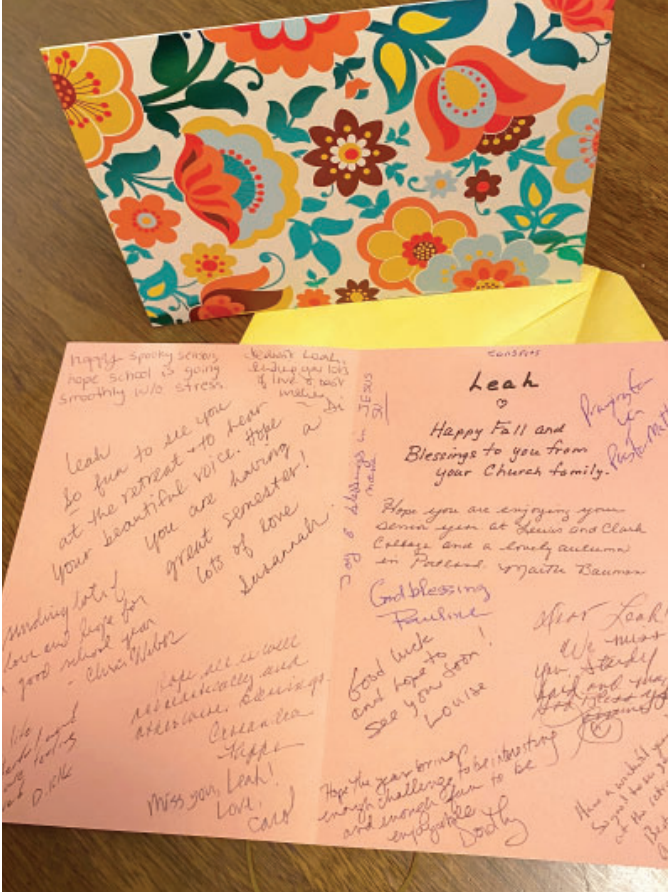


Micheline La Mont



Victor Carrillo

Deacon Care Packages Gratefully Received by College Students



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



Contribute a Warm Coat or Blanket to our Neighbors

Last week, Martha Baab and Sarah Roberts interviewed some of our neighbors while they waited in line for lunches. When asked what they need most, besides food, the overwhelming response was warm jackets and blankets. Do you have unused blankets or gently used jackets that you could donate to them?

Please bring items between now and Christmas and we will offer them with our lunches.



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.



Abundance!



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, Cassandra Flipper

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

matt@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

joelmackey@comcast.net

510.326.5590

Jake Fontana, Music Director

jake@firstchurchoakland.org

Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

micheline@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3810

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

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

erick@firstchurchoakland.org

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