

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart
Dieterich Buxtehude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord from the highest heaven.

All: The sun and moon, and all the stars in the sky, sing praises to our God.

One: Praise the Lord from the deepest valley.

All: The mountains and hills, and all the trees in the forest, worship the Lord on high.

One: Praise the Lord from heart filled with song,

All: The old and young, and all the saints of God, sing with songs of joy.

One: Come! Let us worship the ruler of heaven and earth.

Gathering Prayer

One: Light of the world, shine in our lives this day. As we gather to worship you, give us the eyes of Simeon and the faith of Anna, that we may see the promise of our salvation. As we come before you with hope and expectation, give us the spirit of your Son, that we too may grow in strength and increase in wisdom. In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Father of mercy, Mother of holy love, we yearn to turn to you, as we seek to grow in your wisdom and increase in your grace. We long to crawl into your loving arms, and your never-failing acceptance. Strengthen the roots of our hope and faith, that we may be heirs of your promise all the days of our lives.

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 has clothed us with garments of salvation. Christ has covered us with the robes of righteousness and the garb of holy love. As children of the living God, adopted into Christ's family of faith, let us rejoice in our glorious inheritance.

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

*He Came Down
African American Heritage Hymnal #200*

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2. 22 - 40 NRSV

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon[c] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

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

Sermon Continued

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

Song

*Take My Life
Glory to God #697*

Invitation to the Offering

When the time came to dedicate their son to the Lord, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple in thanksgiving and praise. In honor of that ancient tradition, we come this day to dedicate our lives and these, our humble gifts, to God in thanksgiving and praise.

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

*Nunc dimittis
by Charles Wood*

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: Gracious God, thank you for all your gifts. As we offer you our offering in gratitude and praise, we dedicate our labor, our industry, and our very lives to the building of your kingdom. May our gifts go forth to a world in need, as signs of your redemption and your hope. May we shine with your glory, that others may discover your saving love. In Christ's name, we pray.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
Glory to God #546

Benediction

One: Go in peace, for we have seen the salvation of God.

All: We go with joy, for Christ has clothed us with love.

One: Go in hope, for the Spirit shows us our glorious inheritance in the Lord.

All: We go with God.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Jan Busch

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Derrick Polk

Black History Month Event Scheduled for Sunday, January 25



In preparation for Black History Month, we are planning a trip to the Oakland Museum of California (OCMA) on Sunday, January 25, after church. Martha Baab has arranged a 30-minute guided tour of a special exhibit. Black Spaces: Reclaim & Remain navigates the braided histories of displacement, resistance, and resilience within Black American communities in Oakland and

the East Bay. Through new commissions in art, architecture, and archival research, the exhibition traces how these communities have creatively resisted dispossession and reimagined spaces of home and belonging. Admission is free but we only have space for 20–25 participants. Please let Suzie Inadomi know if you would like you join us.

Mandela Partners 2026 Cohort to Begin on February 23



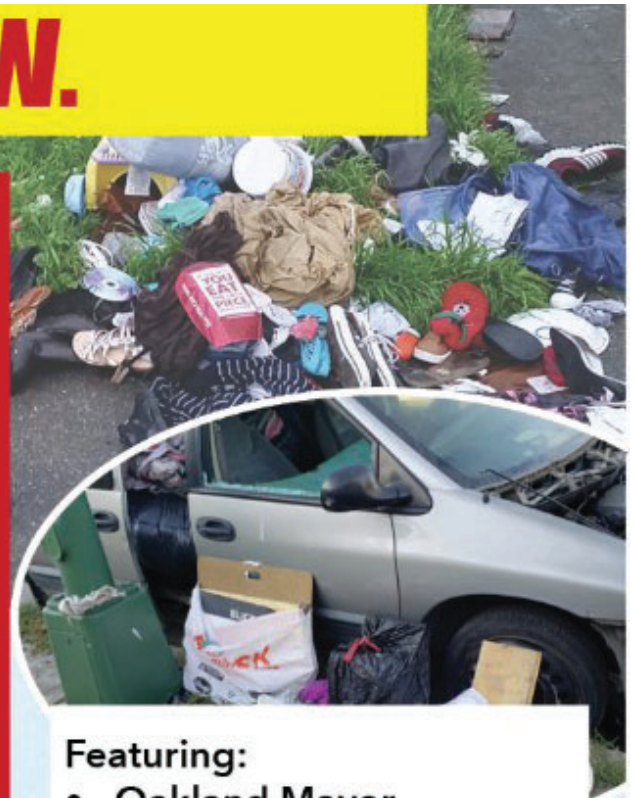
We welcome Mandela Partners back for its first cohort of 2026. The culinary employment pathway creates pathways to employment with local food businesses by providing paid kitchen

and culinary training for community members facing barriers to employment, with a focus on the re-entry population. Cohort members intern at local restaurants for two months after completing the 5-week program.

DEMAND ACTION NOW.

Illegal dumping has become a public health emergency.

It endangers our children and elders, harms our families, and fuels crime and violence in our neighborhoods. Oakland needs real, long-lasting solutions – and we need them now.



Featuring:

- Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee
- City Council Members
- Director of Public Works
- City Administrator
- County Representatives
- and State Officials

What: JOIN A PUBLIC ACTION

Why: Illegal dumping is a public health issue

When: 6 p.m. Monday, January 12

Where: Allen Temple, 8501 International Blvd.
Oakland

Register: <https://bit.ly/IDaction12>



INFO: Emma Paulino
emmap@fiaeastbay.org
510-459-8696



Black History Month Celebration Concert on Saturday, February 7

This February 7th at 3pm, we have the pleasure of welcoming organist and composer Mark Miller to First Church. Mark will lead our choir and the choir of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church in a concert celebrating Black History Month.

The concert will include congregational songs, solos, Mark's choral music, and poetry written by historical and contemporary Black poets. 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. He often writes his own lyrics for his songs, and many of the texts emphasize themes of social justice and building the beloved community.

If you'd like to be involved in welcoming Mark and LOPC to our church, please be in touch, and be sure to attend this special event!



Oakland Seeks 500 Volunteers for Point in Time Homeless Count

Alameda County, in partnership with the City of Oakland City Administrator's Office of Homelessness Solutions invites you to participate in the biennial Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. This crucial event helps us understand the scale of homelessness in our community. We are seeking 500 or more volunteers to ensure a comprehensive and successful count. The PIT Count will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026.

The Point-in-Time Count is an estimated census of people experiencing homelessness, including both sheltered and unsheltered individuals in a 24-hour period. The count occurs every two years in January. The PIT Count is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This count includes individuals and families sleeping outside, in vehicles, in emergency shelters, and transitional housing.

The City of Oakland's role in the PIT Count is to conduct counting of the portion of Oakland's unsheltered individuals i.e., those living outside in vehicles, encampments, and other locations considered uninhabitable. The City of Oakland will not focus on the counting of individuals living in emergency shelters or other city and county intervention and transitional sites. The City's efforts will be led by the Office of Homelessness Solutions with the assistance of various city departments and the City's contracted outreach team.

To sign up for counting in Oakland, please visit <https://alameda.pointintime.info/>



First Worship Service of 2026 Filled with Music and Joy







**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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510.488.3810

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

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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