

Sunday, February 1, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Visit to "Black Spaces" Exhibit Oakland Museum

WELCOME

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.

ORDER of SERVICE

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.

INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude

Prayer Chant (We Resist)
by Mark Miller, sung by the choir



Welcome

Call to Worship

One: What does the Lord require of us?

All: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

One: With what shall we come before the Lord?

All: With speech full of truth and words that build up.

One: How shall we live our faith?

All: With actions that bring peace, and works that lift up the lowly.

One: Come and worship God in spirit and in truth.

Gathering Prayer

One: The hills hear your voice, Lord. The mountains quake before you. As we call on your name, help us walk in the ways of righteousness and speak in tones of peace. As we seek to be blameless and do what is right, may our hearts be free from guile and deceit, that we be known as peace makers, the blessed children of God.

All: Amen.

Song

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing
African American Heritage Hymnal #540

CONFESSIO N o f SIN & ASSURANCE o f GRACE

Confession

One: When we are beaten down by the world, Merciful One, free us from sorrow and grief. When we are wounded by careless words, help us refrain from lashing out in our suffering and hurting the ones we love. Fill us with a hunger and thirst for righteousness, that we may walk humbly in your ways and be a blessing to everyone we meet.

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: God is stronger than our weaknesses, and greater than our failings. Even when we fall short, God's love embraces us and sets us on the path of life once more.

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 remain in the Sanctuary for Family Worship.

P R A Y E R S o f t h e P E O P L E

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

Child of God

by Mark Miller, sung by the choir

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.

Testimony

Why we Celebrate

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Luke 14. 7 – 14 NRSV

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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 the reading.

Song for Preparing the Table

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand
African American Heritage Hymnal #471*

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering

Worshippers are invited to come to the table down the center aisle and return to pews along the side aisles. Communion is non alcoholic and gluten free. Donations can be placed in the offering plate by the table. 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

Lead Me, Guide Me

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

Refrain: **Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

**Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

Benediction

**I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain.***

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Henry Gardner

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Marilyn Reynolds

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Dessert Potluck

Black History Month Profile: John Robert Lewis

By Henry Gardner

Born in 1940 in Alabama to sharecroppers, John Robert Lewis set out as a teenager to be an active civil rights protester sitting at all white lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee. The sit-ins resulted in the lunch counters becoming desegregated. That was just the beginning of a life long battle for justice and civil rights. He was arrested and jailed many times. He said it was important to engage in Good Trouble. He helped organize the March on Washington in 1963, he was a Freedom Rider, and Chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

His most defining moment came when he led over 600 peaceful protesters across the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama to advocate for voting rights for African Americans and an end to the systematic denial of their rights to vote. The protesters were viciously attacked by the local police and a mob that left Lewis with a fractured skull. It was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement and served as the national impetus that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



Make Good Trouble

He served in the United States Congress representing Georgia from 1987 until his death in 2020. Never wavering from his convictions about what the country should stand for, liberty and justice for all, he was called the conscience of the Congress. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



Paul Cobb with John Robert Lewis



John Lewis Runs for Congress



Please join us on Sundays in February for these special weekly services. Our theme : Celebrating 'Good Trouble' - ongoing work for freedom and justice.

Feb 1st - Family Sunday, Pastor Matt preaching, history of Black History month.

Feb. 7th - 3pm - Mark Miller concert collaboration with First Pres. choir and Lafayette Orinda Pres. choir.

Feb. 8th - Youth Sunday, Carter Provost preaching, poems by Black poets.

Feb. 15th - Rev. Joel Mackey preaching, Voice of Legacy choir, Building the Beloved Community discussion about 'good trouble' today during coffee hour.

Feb. 22nd - Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson preaching, Lucy Kinchen Chorale, potluck meal following the service.

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!!!



First Church Community Enjoys Oakland Museum Exhibit



Business Office Updates

2025 was a busy year in the church business office. Joan Clerk retired in September and prior to that Sarah Roberts and Maggie Harmon worked with Joan on a number of system changes that have helped to make the office more accessible, more digital, and easier to manage.

- * We moved to quickbooks online.
- * We integrated expenses and payroll with quickbooks for automatic updates.
- * Staff is using new credit cards that have built in expensing features (no more paper).
- * Utilities, insurance, recurring contracts are all on auto-pay (less paper, more cash back, no late payments).
- * Communications are all run through Breeze, our church management software, integrating giving, community engagement, and outreach. Reimbursement requests are digital, and funds can be deposited via ACH.

Sarah and Maggie are in the office most Monday mornings, and with our systems online we can answer questions and keep things moving from anywhere. Questions? Just ask: sahr@firstchurchoakland.org or maggieh@firstchurchoakland.org.



Joan Clerk



Sarah Roberts



Maggie Harmon

Please Join us for Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent within the church. Lent is a forty-day season of preparation before the celebration of resurrection on Easter.

We are collaborating with Oak Life church which meets just down Broadway at Oakstop. The Ash Wed. service will be a time to reflect on our own mortality and our need for God's loving forgiveness. We hope that you are able to join us.

Please Join Faith in Action for these 6 p.m. Friday Ceasefire Nightwalks



Stop the gun violence! Oakland Ceasefire is a movement to stop the killings and more people going to jail. We are uniting to build a culture of peace and healing. We are walking our neighborhoods to carry this message: We love you and we want you to be alive and free!

Feb 13 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue

Feb 20 ~ St. Patrick's, 1023 Peralta St

Feb 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

Mar 13 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue

Mar 20 ~ New Hope MBC, 892 36th Street

Mar 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.



Feb 2: Gwendolyn Bucholz
 Feb 8: Saul Marquez
 Feb 11: Barbara Goodroe
 Feb 13: Matthew Inadomi
 Feb 16: Lorraine Provost
 Feb 18: Maria Ekwoe
 Feb 22: Cole Provost
 Feb 22: Judy Rowan
 Feb 24: Dorrie Dodge
 Feb 28: Rose Mary Richmond

**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
 Aaron Ruff
 Gay Plair Cobb: Personnel/Food Ministry
 David Alexander
 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

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Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate
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Jake Fontana, Music Director
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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
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Erick Bevington, Treasurer
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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