

Sunday, February 8, 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

*Allegretto
by Florence Price*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who delight in the Lord!

All: We come to this place, where generations before us have gathered.

One: Here we remember the light of God that shines in our lives.

All: Here we allow God's light to shine through us.

One: Let us worship our radiant God.

All: Praise the Lord! Happy are we who delight in the Lord!

Gathering Prayer

One: Amazing God, you have gathered us from many places to come together and praise you this day. For this we are grateful! As we worship today, may our minds be opened to learn your wisdom. May our eyes be opened to places that need healing. May our hands be opened to do your good work. May our hearts be opened to your Holy Spirit, who gifts us and guides us. In the name of Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: There are times in our lives when we mess up, when we turn away from God, whether intentionally or unintentionally. There are times when we ignore God's presence in our lives or blatantly speak against God. It is because of these moments that we need to come before God to confess and receive forgiveness, knowing that God's grace is abundant. So Let us pray:

Merciful God, forgive us when we ignore you or your lessons in our lives.

Forgive us for allowing oppression and discord to flourish.

Forgive us for not feeding those who are hungry.

Forgive us for not providing shelter to those who have no place to lay down at night.

Forgive us for not repairing the broken places in our community.

Lord, forgive us and then help us do your work of bringing about justice and healing.

Shine your light through us, so that all may come to know your abundant love.

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: When we call out to God, God is there to hear us. Know that your prayers have been heard. Now, receive the grace of God and live in God's abundant mercy.

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.

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

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

*There is a Balm in Gilead
African American Heritage Hymnal #524*

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 5. 38 - 48 NRSV

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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

Sermon

Find Some Good Trouble

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

Song

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired
African American Heritage Hymnal #414

Invitation to the Offering

We are told that giving freely to help others glorifies God. Let us bring our gifts to God, so that God's love may be made known.

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.

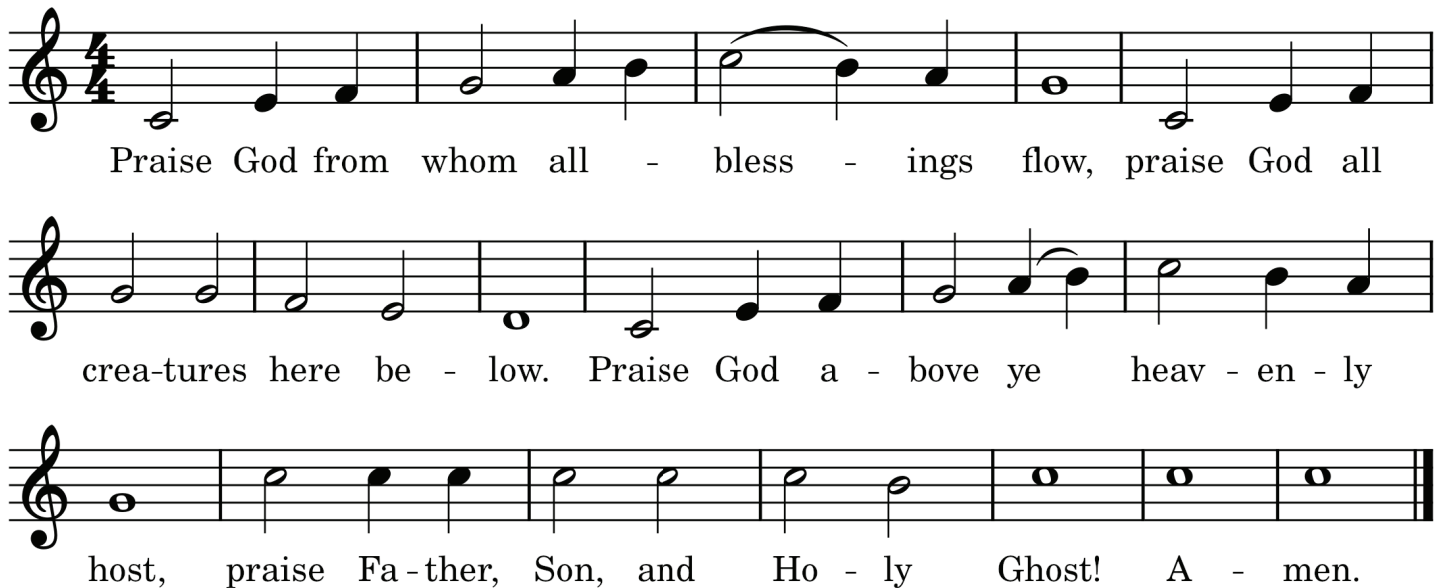


Music at the Offering

Yes and No
Wayne Shorter

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



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

Abundant God, we are grateful for the ways you bless our lives and for the gifts you give us. May these gifts help heal and restore community, so that all will flourish like a well-watered garden.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

Oh, Freedom
African American Heritage Hymnal #545

Benediction

One: May the love of God bring forth healing and restoration all of your days.
May the light of Christ guide your way.
And may the Holy Spirit empower you to do the good work of God.

All: **Amen.**

Poem

To the University of Cambridge, in New England
Phyllis Wheatley

WHILE an intrinsic ardor prompts to write,
The muses promise to assist my pen;
'Twas not long since I left my native shore.
The land of errors, and Egyptian gloom:
Father of mercy, 'twas thy gracious hand
Brought me in safety from those dark abodes.
Students, to you 'tis giv'n to scan the heights
Above, to traverse the ethereal space,
And mark the systems of revolving worlds.
Still more, ye sons of science ye receive
The blissful news by messengers from heav'n,
How Jesus' blood for your redemption flows.
See him with hands out-stretcht upon the cross;
Immense compassion in his bosom glows;
He hears revilers, nor resents their scorn:
What matchless mercy in the Son of God!

When the whole human race by sin had fall'n,
He deign'd to die that they might rise again,
And share with him in the sublimest skies,
Life without death, and glory without end.
Improve your privileges while they stay,
Ye pupils, and each hour redeem, that bears
Or good or bad report of you to heav'n.
Let sin, that baneful evil to the soul,
By you be shun'd, nor once remit your guard;
Suppress the deadly serpent in its egg.
Ye blooming plants of human race divine,
An Ethiop tells you 'tis your greatest foe;
Its transient sweetness turns to endless pain,
And in immense perdition sinks the soul.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Carter Provost

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Marilyn Reynolds

Pianist: Micah Ogden

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Raenelle Tauro and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Lachlan Welch

Black History Month Profile: Phyllis Wheatly

By Henry Gardner

Born in West Africa around 1753, Phyllis Wheatley was sold into slavery at seven years old to the wealthy Boston family of John Wheatley. They named her Phyllis after the slave ship that brought her to America. She quickly learned to read and write, her gift for languages was readily recognized, and the Wheatley family supported her poetry talent. She was tutored by the Wheatley's daughter and son. From that tutoring and her independent readings of the classics in Greek and Latin in the original, she acquired an unprecedented education for a woman of any race during that period. She wrote her first poem at age 14, titled "To the University of Cambridge" (Harvard). She was the first African American to have her works published. Influenced by the writings of Alexander Pope, John Milton, Homer and Virgil, she began writing poetry.

At aged twenty, she accompanied the Wheatley son to London because Mrs. Wheatley felt she would be more successful in getting her works



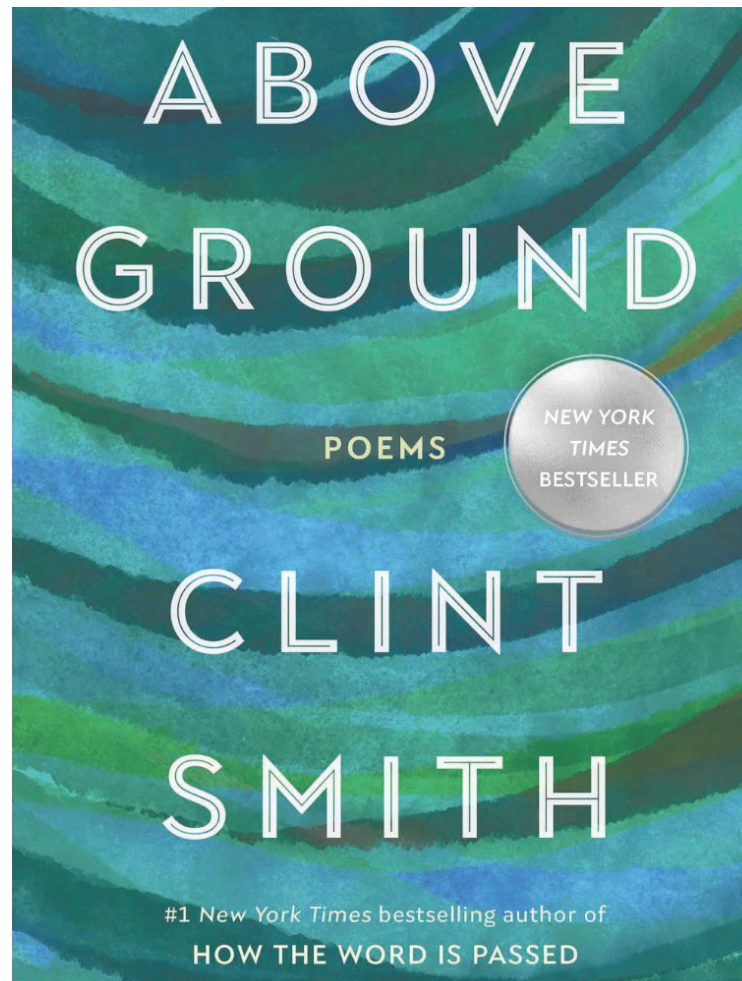
published in England than in the colonies because of her race. She had an audience with the Mayor of London and even one arranged with King George III but had to return to Boston before it could take place. The Countess of Huntington subsidized her volume of poems in London in 1773, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral," which brought her fame in England and the colonies.. She was emancipated after the book of poems.

Many colonists refused to believe a slave could have written these works and they had her sit for an examination of her writings. The evaluators were John Erving, Reverend Charles Chauncey, John Hancock, Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson, and Lieutenant Governor Andrew Oliver. They concluded she had written all of the poems and writings and signed an attestation.

The financial success did not last long. Phyllis Wheatley died in poverty in Boston in 1784 at the age of thirty one.

Dinner and Poetry: Feb. 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Pastor Matt's

Please join us for dinner and conversation about this incredible body of work by Poet Clint Smith. Dinner will be held at Pastor Matt's house. Please let him know if you would like to help with the meal preparation. Pick up a copy of the book from Pastor Matt and bring a favorite poem to share.



Clint Smith's vibrant and compelling new collection traverses the vast emotional terrain of fatherhood and explores how becoming a parent has recalibrated his sense of the world. There are poems that interrogate the ways our lives are shaped by both personal lineages and historical institutions. There are poems that revel in rediscovering the wonder of the natural world through the eyes of your children as they discover it for the first time. There are poems that meditate on what it means to raise a family in a world filled with constant social and political tumult. *Above Ground* wrestles with how we hold gratitude

and despair in the same hands, how we carry intimate moments of joy and a collective sense of mourning in the same body.

Smith's lyrical narrative poems bring the reader on a journey not only through the early years of his children's lives, but through the changing world in which they are growing up—through the changing world of which we are all a part. *Above Ground* is a breathtaking collection that follows Smith's award-winning first book of poetry, *Counting Descent*.

Your National Anthem
By Clint Smith

Today, a Black man who was once a Black boy like you got down on one of his knees and laid his helmet on the grass as this country sang

its ode to the promise it never kept and the woman in the grocery store line in front of us is on the phone and she is telling someone

on the other line that this Black man who was once a Black boy like you should be grateful we live in a country where people aren't killed for things like this

you know, she says, in some places they would hang you for such a blatant act of disrespect, maybe he should go live there instead of here so he can appreciate what he has

then she turns around and sees you sitting in the grocery cart surrounded by lettuce and yogurt and frozen chicken thighs

and you smile at her with your toothless-gum-smile and she says that you are the cutest baby she has ever seen and tells me how I must feel so lucky

to have such a beautiful baby boy and I thank her for her kind words even though I know I should not thank her, because I know that you will not always

be a Black boy but one day you may be a Black man and you may decide your country

hasn't kept its promise to you either and this woman, or another

like her, will forget you were ever this boy and they will make you into something else and tell you to be grateful for what you've been given.



Clint Smith



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

Today- 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.

Come to our Ash Wednesday Worship, 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.

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

Feb. 26th: Dinner and poetry night from 530 - 730pm at Pastor Matt's. We will be reading Clint Smith's Above the Ground.

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.

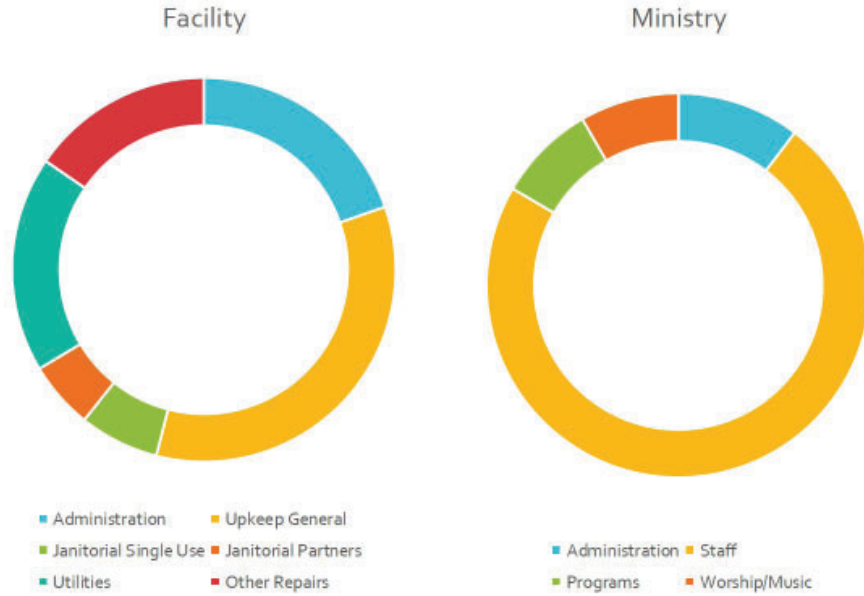
Mar 13 ~ First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue

Mar 20 ~ New Hope MBC, 892 36th Street

Mar 27 ~ At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.

First Church 2025 Financial Summary Highlights

Expenses: Facility and Ministry



2025 Summary

- Total integrated income: \$780,587
 - Facility: \$496,733
 - Ministry: \$283,854
- Total integrated expense: \$774,301
 - Facility: \$493,590
 - Ministry: \$283,854
- \$3,143 income transferred to facility reserve fund
- No distribution from bequest reserve fund was taken
- 3 permanent endowments held by the Presbyterian Foundation that produce approximately \$20,000 per year
- Bequest Reserve Fund (including Williams gift) available at 5% per year unless Session vote for more: \$454,091
- Facility Reserve Fund: \$317,929.43
- Royer Fund Accrued Assets: \$157,647 (principle endowed)

2026 Considerations

- Single Use events will drop
- Commercial vacancies are up across the city; it is a highly competitive, low-cost market
- Expenses increase every year by 3-10%; giving does not match this increase, rental fees do not match this increase due to the current market conditions
- **Lowest cost, highest profit are sustainable long-term tenants (please help us find good partners to use this space)**
- **Please consider increasing your gift to the church by 3-5%**

Western Service Workers Make 4,000 Tamales for its Winter Survival Campaign



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
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

Paul Roberts, Martha Baab, Lorraine Provost,
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