

Sunday, March 1, 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

*Prelude in F
Fanny Hensel*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Temptation surrounds us every day.

All: Happy are those whose faults are forgiven.

One: Opportunities to stray litter our path.

All: Happy are those whose sin is covered.

One: Though we stumble and fall, God's mercy picks us up.

All: God's grace brushes us off.

One: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice,

All: God's love meets us here.

Gathering Prayer

One: Gracious God, we need your presence in our lives if we are to resist temptation. Send your angels to minister to us when the tempter comes to call. Put not our hearts to the test, but shelter us in your protective love. For you are our God and we are your people.

All: Amen.

Song

*A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar
Glory to God #201*

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of wilderness wanderings, many things tempt us, many forces cause our feet to stray. Save us from the time of trial, for we easily succumb to temptation; we often heed voices that cause us to stray. Return us to the garden of your abiding love, for we yearn to walk with you with faithful hearts and upright spirits.

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

Lyrics by Annie Schlaefer

One: It's okay to change your mind
Show us your courage
Leave this behind
It's okay to change your mind
And you can join us
Join us here anytime

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 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

Buying Time
Lily Fitts

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

Matthew 4. 1 – 11 The Message

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: “Since you are God’s Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread.”

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”

For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, “Since you are God’s Son, jump.” The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: “He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone.”

Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: “Don’t you dare test the Lord your God.”

For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth’s kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, “They’re yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they’re yours.” Jesus’ refusal was curt: “Beat it, Satan!” He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.

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

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Song for Preparing the Table

The Glory of These Forty Days
Glory to God #165

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

Ordination Questions

Questions for Elders David Alexander and Aaron Ruff:

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Questions for Deacons Martha Baab, Lorraine Provost, Paul Roberts, Cassandra Flipper:

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Questions for Congregation:

Do we, the members of the church, accept _____ as elders or deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

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

Song

She's Got the Whole World in Her Hands

**She's got the whole world in her hands (x3)...
She's got the whole world in her hands!**

**She's got the sun and the moon in her hands (x3)...
She's got the whole world in her hands!**

**She's got the wind and the rain in her hands (x3)...
She's got the whole world in her hands!**

**She's got the little tiny baby in her hands (x3)...
She's got the whole world in his hands.**

Benediction

One: Go with joy. Our shortcomings are forgiven.
Go with hope. Our sin is covered.
Go with love. Our hearts are uplifted by the tender mercies of our God.

All: Amen.

**She's got everybody here in her hands (x3)...
She's got the whole world in her hands!**

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Aaron Ruff

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Fellowship Time Refreshments: L J Rose

Upcoming Art Show Features the Works of Carol Aust

Beginning Sunday, March 22 First Church will be hosting an art show in the Reception Room. Carol Aust is a local artist who primarily paints large liturgical paintings. In the past year she has been volunteering at a church in the Fruitvale district teaching ESL and was inspired to paint portraits of her students and the hope and resilience they model to her.

Please come enjoy the portraits and meet Carol on March 22 after church. Also, in considering the issues of immigration we will have a book group reading in April *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora. Please contact Sarah Roberts for more information, 925-212-9478.



Don't miss these upcoming Cantare and Nova Choir Concerts

March 7, 3 p.m. - Aurora recital

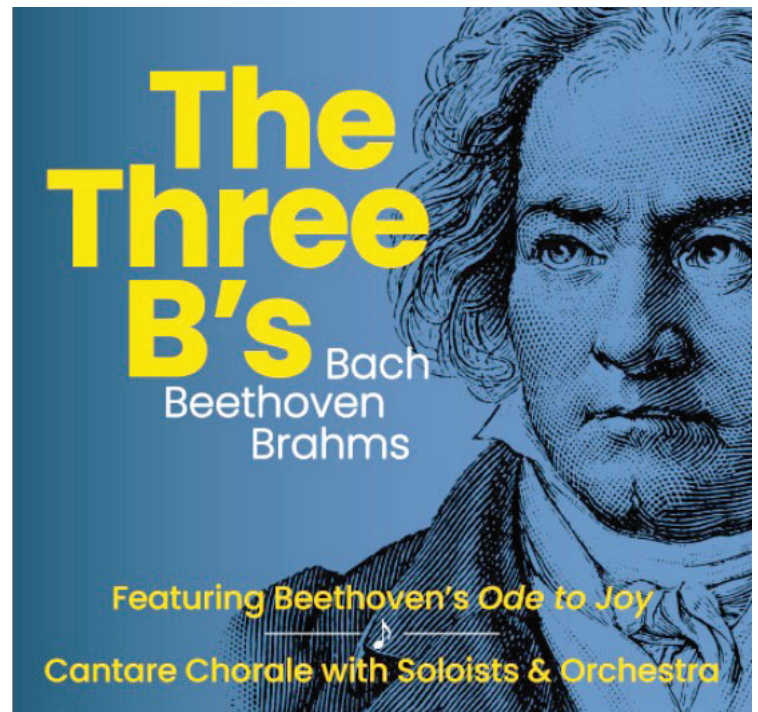
Join Cantare's advanced youth choirs at their annual recitals, celebrating the achievements of our youth singers! These events are free to attend, and will be followed by a reception for snacks and socializing!

March 22, 4 p.m. The Three B's | Bach, Beethoven, Brahms

The Cantare Chorale will perform works by these three famous classical German composers

Use code FRIEND at checkout to get a 20% discount on tickets through March 13.

Visit cantareconvivo.org/bbb to get your tickets!



Super Soul Sunday Tops Off Another Great Black History Month

Photos by Linda Carter





Micheline La Mont to Retire - Last Day will be March 5



Micheline is retiring on March 5. Please send cards and drop by to show your appreciation for her wonderful work with us.

Please share our job search with friends and neighbors. The QR code links to the job description.



Please Join Faith in Action for these 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! All walks start at 6 p.m.

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 Joins Day of Remembrance Interfaith Vigil at ICE Headquarters in San Francisco on February 25



For information on how to get involved, please visit: www.im4humanintegrity.org

Let's Celebrate March Birthdays!



Please wish the following people a happy birthday this month:

March 5: Carter Provost

March 6: Christopher Weber, Gay Cobb

March 21: Angus Ahanotu

March 22: Lia Inadomi

March 29: Anne Margaret Manay

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

Irmeter, 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

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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

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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