

March 15, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



The Good Shepherd
Roman Catacombs, third century

WELCOME

Visitors:

- If you would like to join our email list, please fill out the form at firstchurchoakland.org.
- 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 three and under.
- You may also use the **Parent Corners** in the back and front right corner of the sanctuary.
- Children's **worship bags** are available in the narthex or from the ushers.
- On the first Sunday of the month we celebrate **Family Worship & Communion**. On all other Sundays, children may join in **Godly Play**. Children are escorted to Classroom 2 during the *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 *Sheep May Safely Graze* Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come into the light of God.

All: Christ's brightness will guide our way.

One: Come into the wisdom of God.

All: The Spirit's insight will reveal new truths.

One: Come into the praise of God.

All: Worship opens new doors in our hearts.

Gathering Prayer

One: Shepherd of love, guide our steps, open the eyes of our hearts, and fling wide the doors of our minds to perceive as you perceive. Open our lives to love as you love. Open our world to become the world you envision for your creation. In the light of your love, we pray.

All: Amen.

Anthem *It's Okay to Change Your Mind* Annie Schlaefer; sung by the Choir

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

This viral protest song was recently sung in the streets by over 2,000 Minnesotans.

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Christ our Healer, we want to see and be seen fully. We long to heal and be healed fully. We yearn to love and be loved fully. Yet, these desires seem beyond our reach when our minds are set on earthly things. Set our minds instead on you. Help us perceive the possibilities of fullness, of shalom, of your realm on this earth. Then guide us to help live into the reality you show us.

All: Amen.

You are invited into a time of silent, personal reflection.

One: In the name of the one who loves us unconditionally, we pray:

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: Surely goodness and faithful love follow us all the days of our lives. For these gifts are already ours through the grace and the power of Jesus Christ.

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 gather at the side door to follow leaders to Godly Play.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

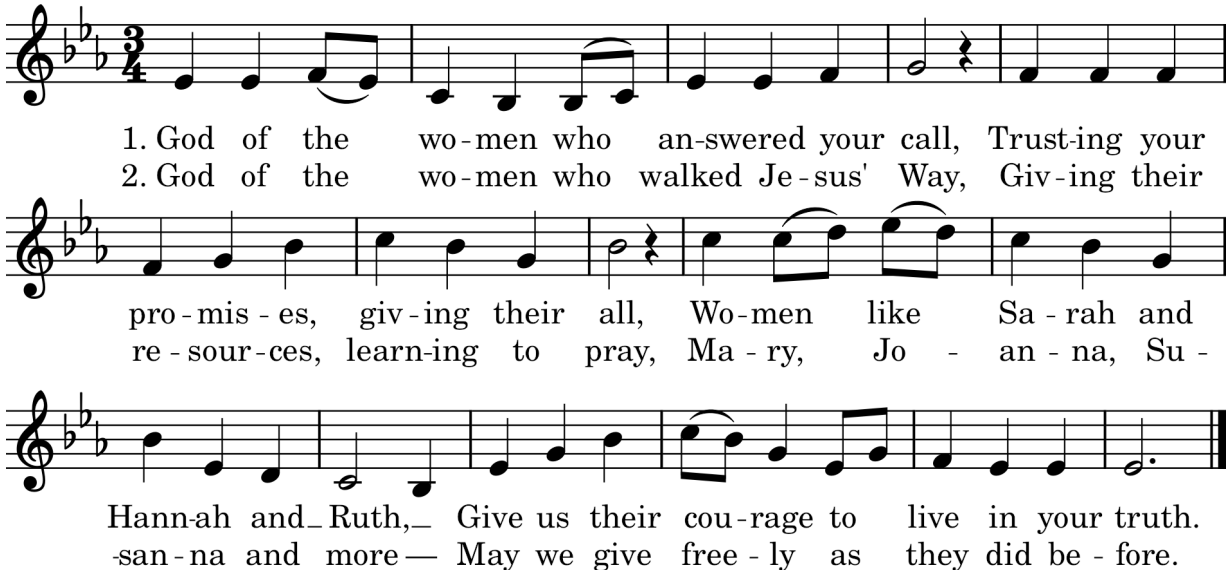
Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.

The Lord's 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.**

Hymn *God of the Women*



1. God of the wo-men who an-swered your call, Trust-ing your
2. God of the wo-men who walked Je-sus' Way, Giv-ing their
pro-mis-es, giv-ing their all, Wo-men like Sa-rah and
re-sour-ces, learn-ing to pray, Ma-ry, Jo-an-na, Su-
Hann-ah and Ruth,— Give us their cou-age to live in your truth.
san-na and more— May we give free-ly as they did be-fore.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 16. 1 – 13 NRSV

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."
Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me."

And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23 NRSV

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

Rev. Joel will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon. Afterward, please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us, verses 1-2*

Glory to God #187

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The bread of heaven is here, leading us into life.

All: We draw strength from the bread of life.

One: The cup of blessing is at hand, bringing us salvation.

All: We find life in the cup of salvation.

One: Eat and drink, for Christ is here, offering us eternal life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sharing of the Holy Meal and 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.*



Music during Communion

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *Lead Me, Guide Me* African American Heritage Hymnal #474

Benediction

One: As Christ's light has lead us here,

All: So now Christ's light leads us into the world.

One: Go with the light, go to be light.

All: We will brighten the world with God's love.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Joel Mackey

Preacher: Maggie Harmon

Liturgist: Suzie Inadomi

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Choir: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Dorrie Dodge

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 at 925-212-9478.



Don't Miss this Upcoming Cantare Concert

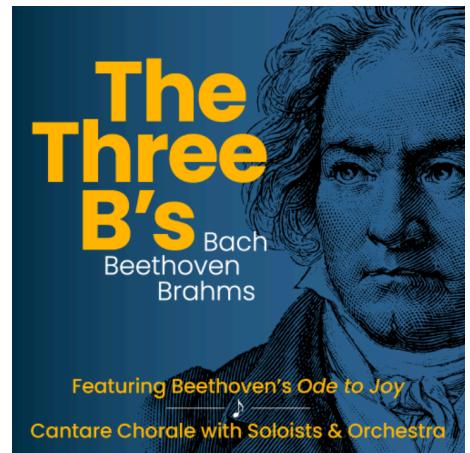
The Three B's | Bach, Beethoven, Brahms

March 22, 4 p.m.

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!



The Food Ministry Needs You!

Contact Pastor Matt, Dorothy Dugger, or Gay Cobb to sign up for these opportunities.

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.: Each Saturday morning volunteers go to Whole Foods and Good Eggs to pick up donations. We need help organizing and cleaning up the donation pick-ups. Love our neighbors and build community.

Weekly Communications: Each week we share in word and picture what is happening within our food ministry to the church community. Would you like to take a few pictures and type up a brief report about the food ministry to encourage and inspire others to join us in loving our neighbors?

Sunday Lead: We are seeking another volunteer to lead one Sunday a month before and after our worship service. A Sunday lead follows the meal plan, coordinates volunteers, guides food distribution, and checks on the clean-up. The lead ensures that volunteers have meaningful service and can contribute to this important ministry.

Organizing dry goods pantry and storage closets:

With many users of the kitchen, things sometimes don't get put away in the best place or with the most logic. Spend an hour or two at the most, once a month to put things back in shape and help keep the kitchen functional.

Neighbor Liaison: Get to know the neighbors we serve and guests who come pick up lunch and sometimes groceries at our 27th St entrance. Sundays after fellowship hour, 11:45 to 12:45-1:00. 2 volunteers needed to give out lunch bags and serve coffee and visit with our guests. You can sign up online when you see a vacancy or pick one Sunday a month as a regular time of service.





Faith in Action East Bay invites you to gather with hundreds of leaders from across the PICO California Network on **Tuesday, March 24, 2026**, in Sacramento for the Families Are Sacred Convention, a powerful public launch of our shared vision for California's future.

This vision is the culmination of months of organizing, collective action, and deep alignment around the key issues that will lead us toward a California that truly works for all families.

This will be a day of action, both inspiring and strategic, as we lift up the strength of our faith voice and our shared moral call to justice in this state.

Overview of the Day

- Morning: Rally and March at the State Capitol
- Midday: March together to the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, where we will:
 - Hear from leaders across the state on our shared goals and priorities
 - Build and strengthen relationships across regions and federations
 - Emerge as one united voice representing the faith community in California

We hope you and your most powerful leaders will join us as we stand together to declare: Families are sacred.

Learn more and register here: <https://tinyurl.com/bd8xx7cc>



Temple Sinai Unity Seder

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

6:00 – 8:00PM

We invite you to an interfaith celebration of freedom and redemption, complete with the ritual foods and story of a traditional Seder plus readings from many different traditions and an opportunity to learn from and share with each other. Vegetarian dinner will be served.

Sponsored by



Temple Sinai



Urban League of
Greater San Francisco Bay Area

TEMPLE SINAI STERN HALL, 28TH AND WEBSTER, OAKLAND



Scan this code to
register or visit
oaklandsinai.org

Mark your Calendar for our October 2-4, 2026 Church Retreat



Join us next year at Zephyr Point at Lake Tahoe for an opportunity to gather in a beautiful space, to step away from everyday rhythms of life, to build community with other members, and to connect with God.

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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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

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Temple Tidings

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welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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