

March 22, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Elijah at the Cave
Marc Chagall

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

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come into the light of God's love.

All: Fear cannot separate us from its blessing.

One: Come to the house of healing and hope.

All: God's love makes us whole.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of power and might, bring your awesome presence into our worship
and our world. Open us to your wholeness and healing and embolden us to
answer your call, that we might face unafraid the demons of this world.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Glory to God #475

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Loving God, we yearn to be close to you and to dwell in your ever-present love. Be with us when your yearning seems unsatisfied. Great Healer, bring us the help we most need. Wipe away our fears. Comfort us in our regrets. Forgive our mistakes. Strengthen us with healing and hope. Draw us so close to you, that we may never question your presence or have reason to be afraid.

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: Before faith, we were locked away in our fear. But faith is ours through the grace of Christ. In this grace, we are no longer chained; we are no longer bound by regrets or sin. We are freed with love, freed to love and freed to be loved.

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

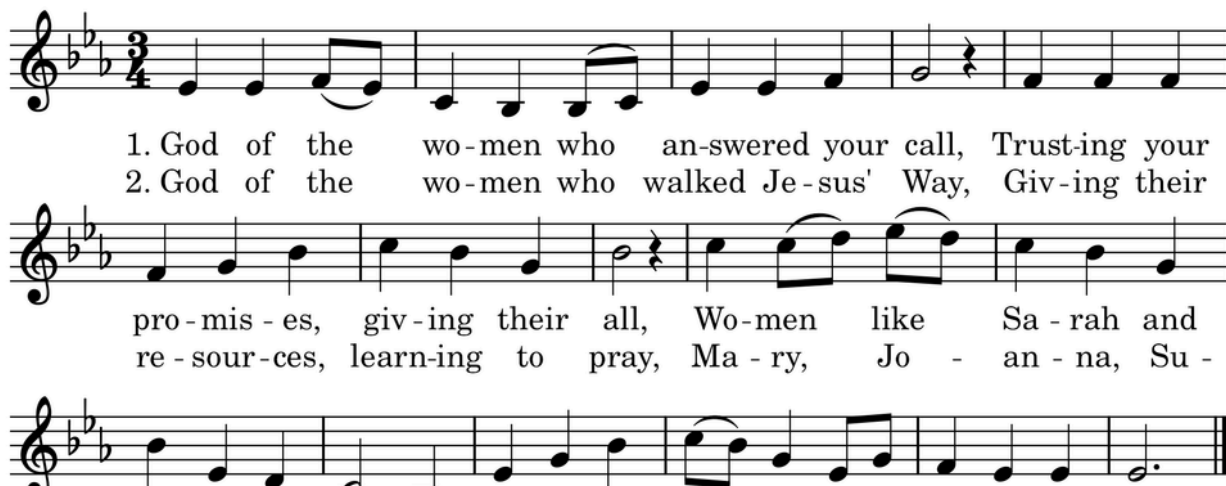
You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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.**

Please remain seated.

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.

March is Women's History Month.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

1 Kings 19. 4 - 14 NRSV

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Alone in the Wilderness

Rev. Matt Prinz

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

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

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

Invitation to the Offering

As we have been healed and strengthened by Christ, so now Christ invites us to offer healing and strength to the world through our gifts and our lives.

Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. You may also donate using this QR code on your smartphone:



Music at the Offering *Malibu* Mumford & Sons

In all my doubt	Or not enough
In all my weakness	You'd only see
Can you lead?	The ghost still rising
I fall behind	A broken touch
But like you promise	But walking through the valley was
You wait for me	what brought me here
And I feel a spirit move in me again	I knew I would never make it on my
I know it's the same spirit that still	own
moves in you	And I don't know how it took so long
I don't know how it took so long to shed	to shed this skin
this skin	Live under the shadow of your wings
Live under the shadow of your wings	You are all I want
You are all I want	You're all I need
You're all I need	And I'll find peace beneath the shadow
I'll find peace beneath the shadow of	of your wings
your wings	
I'm still afraid	
I said too much	

Prayer for the Offering

One: Healer of life's ills, bring healing and strength through the gifts we bring before you now. Bring hope, faith, and love, that our church may be an instrument of healing and a vessel of hope for a hurting world.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *It Is Well with My Soul*

Glory to God #840

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Martha Bauman

Pianist: Joe Warner

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Aaron Ruff and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Matt and Susannah Prinz

Poem *The Peace of Wild Things*

Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

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.



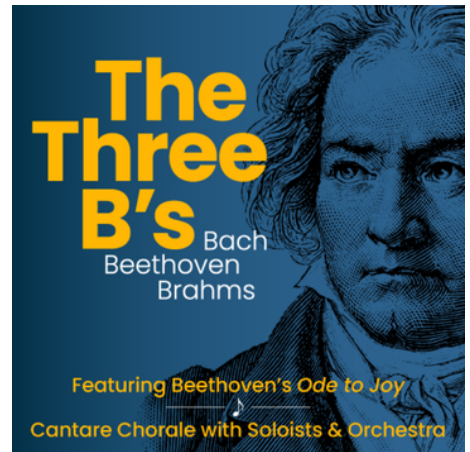
Don't Miss Today's Cantare Concert

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.

Visit cantareconvivo.org/bbb to get your tickets!





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

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.



Office Administrator Needed!



Do you know someone skilled with office communications and facilities management?

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

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 smartphone 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

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Temple Tidings

Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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