

April 19, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



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 *Lay it All Down (At the Feet of Jesus)*

Will Reagan

Bring your worry, grief, and pain	Filled with all those anxious thoughts
Every cause you have for shame	And your doubts became your god
Lay it all down	Lay it all down
When your cares have buried you	At the feet of Jesus
And there's nothing left to do	When we've given up on better days
Lay it all down	There are memories we can't erase
At the feet of Jesus	Lay it all down
Carried on but your heart was tired	When we've come to fear what we can't explain
Feared the worst and felt the fire	And there's nothing here that can ease the pain
Lay it all down	Lay it all down
At the feet of Jesus	At the feet of Jesus

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Even if we feel abandoned and alone,

All: Christ meets us here.

One: Even when we become lost and disoriented,

All: Christ rescues us in our need.

One: Even when our hearts are touched by the frost,

All: Christ warms our spirits.

One: Even when all light has faded to black,

All: Christ illumines our Way.

One: Here in this house of worship enter, rejoice, and come home.

Gathering Prayer

One: Lover of our souls, you meet us on the road of life and lift us from our pain and grief. Heal our hardness of heart, and open our minds to the subtleness of your ways and the grandeur of your kingdom. During times of suffering and doubt, help us grow strong and true, through your enduring word. Reveal your presence to us, as we show hospitality to strangers and break bread in your name.

All: Amen.

Anthem *I Believe*

Mark Miller
sung by the choir

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.

I believe in love even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God even when God is silent.

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of Easter hope, when our gaze is cast within, it is easy to miss your presence in our midst. When we fail to recognize you on the road, touch our minds with your wisdom and truth, and set our hearts on fire with your holy love. During times of confusion and doubt, open our eyes to your life-giving presence, and rekindle our Easter faith.

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: In the resurrection of Jesus, we find hope and an imperishable seed of faith.
Risen with Christ, we are born anew.

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 rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Go and Tell Mary and Martha*

African American Heritage Hymnal #284

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24. 13 – 35 NRSV

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?"

They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Hymn *O Christ, the Great Foundation*

Glory to God #361

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.*



Solo *Total Praise*

Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift

My eyes to the hills

Knowing my help

Is coming from You

Your peace You give me

In time of the storm

You are the source of my strength

You are the strength of my life

I lift my hands in total praise to You

Amen!

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Glory to God #248

Benediction

One: As you meet strangers on the road, learn to recognize Christ in your midst.

All: As our hearts burn within us, we will recognize his whispers to our souls.

One: As you experience Christ in the smile of another, share the love of God with one another.

All: As the scales fall from our eyes, we will see Easter miracles all around us.

One: Go with God's blessings.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Chris Scott, Co-Pastor at Oak Life Church

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: April Edwell

Guitar / Vocals: Jenn Ayala, Music and Worship leader at Oak Life Church

Choir: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Anne Margaret Manay and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Julia Marquez



As a Christ-centered, justice minded, and LGBTQ+ affirming community, Oak Life seeks to extend God's welcome to all. Yes, we mean everyone!

We're called Oak Life Church because a strong tree is a great metaphor for the life we want to lead. The meaning behind it is drawn from John 15:5 and, as we continue to grow in our connectedness to God, we hope to develop a rhythm of life that has *deep roots and wide branches*. In addition to being a community that strives to go deep and reach out together, we're also an affirming church that strives to extend God's grace to the all.

Flipping the Tables of Injustice

Interfaith prayer gathering with Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity





Join us for a prayerful pilgrimage
in support of the Oakland People's Arms Embargo

May 9, 2026

8:00 am - 7:00 pm

East Bay, BART-Accessible

For more info & RSVP: bit.ly/I4P2026pilgrimage



Water Bottles for West Oakland Middle School

West Oakland Middle School has lead in their faucets and recently installed fresh water stations throughout the campus. They need at least 60 metal water bottles so each kid can have access to clean water.

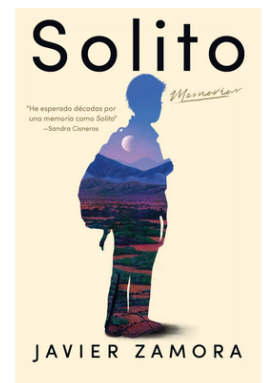
Please collect water bottles by April 30.



Project Peace

Building Beloved Community: *Solito* discussion

Here at First Church, we endeavor to make God's welcome known and in that vein we welcome people from all places. Our next Building Beloved Community (BBC) topic is immigration and we are reading *Solito* by Javier Zamora about a nine-year old boy's journey from El Salvador to the USA to reunite with his parents. Please join us on Sunday, April 19th after church for a light lunch and discussion about the book and our own immigration stories. Julia Marquez will share insight as an expert in immigration laws. You do not have to finish the book to participate. Please contact Sarah Roberts or Suzie Inadomi for more details.



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.

Keeping Us Clean: Have access to a washing machine? We need help with laundry for two weeks a month -- two people once a month or one person two weeks a month. Pick up dishcloths and aprons after church on Sunday and return by the following Sunday, at your convenience.

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 12:30-12:45. 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.



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



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

Martha Baab, Martha Bauman, Cassandra
Flipper, Charmaine Irmiter, Lorraine Provost,
Pam Prinz, Paul Roberts

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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

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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.

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