

Sunday, May 17, 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 *Andante*

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God made the world and everyone in it.

All: Our life and breath come from God.

One: God made all nations under heaven.

All: We are all God's offspring.

One: Search for God in our time of worship.

All: When we search, we find God near.

Gathering Prayer

One: Hear our prayers, God, as we come to sing your praises. Bless us with your steadfast love, in times of peace and in times of trial. Make your presence known to us this day, for we seek to know you better. Enliven us with your Spirit of truth, and increase our faith, even as we place our hope and trust in you.

All: Amen.

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
O deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.
O don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
that promised land, where all is peace?

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Sometimes, God, your ways are a mystery to us. When we cry out in desperation, we don't really expect you to hear our prayers. When we suffer for doing the right thing, it seems like par for the course. When we deny or doubt your presence, forgive us, God. Make your presence known to us, and receive our prayers and praise, as those who long to feel your presence.

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.

Please remain seated.

Sung Assurance of Pardon *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* Glory to God #418

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.
"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

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 *Guide My Feet*

African American Heritage Hymnal #131

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

1 Peter 4. 12 - 14 NRSV

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *You Want Me to Go Where?*

Maggie Harmon

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 *Nothing Can Trouble (Nada te turbe)*

Glory to God #820

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.*



Choir Anthem *Lead Me, Lord*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,

Make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,

That makest me dwell in safety.

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Glory to God #65

Benediction

The people discovered that God is not just here or there but everywhere, waiting.

Waiting to be found.

Waiting to find us.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Maggie Harmon

Liturgist: David Alexander

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Choir: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Nancy and Keith Ogden



Join Us for a Roots Game!

Join us on Saturday June 13th, 7pm at Oakland Coliseum to watch the Oakland Roots soccer team.

We have box seats to enjoy the game as a church.

Please let Suzie Inadomi know that you would like to attend!

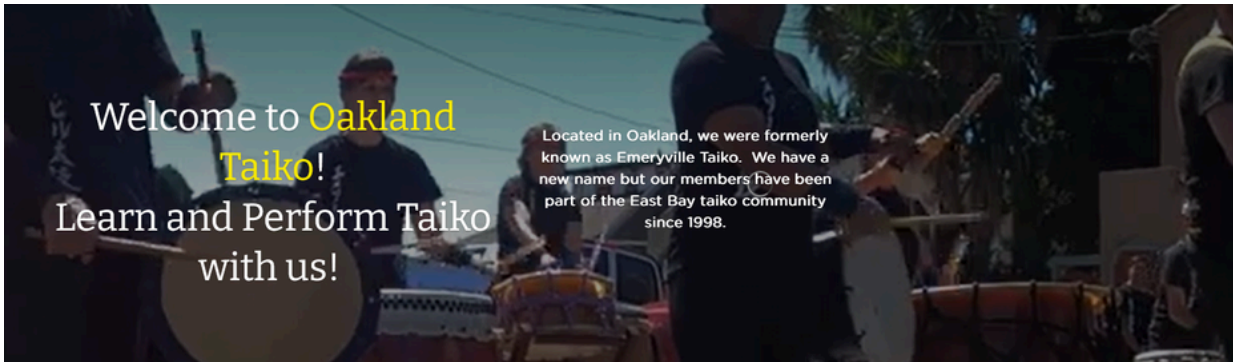
World Cup Watch Party – June 12

The World Cup is here! Let's celebrate opening day for the US with an indoor / outdoor World Cup watch party! The Harmons will supply beverages and a big grill. You bring your favorite sports viewing dish to share! Not a futbol fan? No worries, we'll have blackberries to pick, chickens to play with, and cornhole to practice your skills!

5-9pm on Friday, June 12th. RSVP to maggieafh@gmail.com for address and parking details.



New Tenant! Oakland Taiko



Please welcome a new tenant to the First Church campus: Oakland Taiko is making their new home on the 3rd Floor of the Parish House Building. Session Elders have been working with the group on sounds testing, scheduling, and sound mitigation to ensure that this is a positive experience for everyone on the campus and that the sacredness of the space is preserved.

We are confident that Oakland Taiko will be a blessing to the community in many ways. Read on to learn more about who they are.

Oakland Taiko is a California nonprofit organization that has been providing Japanese Taiko drumming instructions for over 25 years. The mission of Oakland Taiko is to build a creative and collaborative Taiko community through classes, workshops, and performances. We strive to be inclusive and inviting, creating a friendly community space for learning and teaching the art of taiko drumming with Joy and rigor. In our repertoire and our teaching, we seek to honor taiko's cultural origins in Japan but also innovate with a California twist. Through our performances and workshops, we aspire to share the joy of taiko with the larger Bay Area community and increase public awareness of taiko as a tool of self-empowerment and self-expression.

As an entirely volunteer-led and run group, Oakland Taiko is made possible by continually empowering students to take leadership in the group. Every week, the dojo offers six low-cost, rigorous classes at a variety of levels, including taiko and fue (Japanese flute), that introduce students to the art form in the tradition of martial arts. Students refine their drumming technique, practice drills, and learn songs, but also receive regular instruction on proper dojo culture and etiquette, Japanese vocabulary, and cultural lessons on the origins and evolution of the art form.

If you have any questions about this partnership please reach out to Maggie Harmon or Ben Baab.

Liturgy For the People and By the People



Each Sunday, we gather to worship in community to worship God. We follow a traditional order of worship (call to worship/prayer, confession, prayers of the people, scripture/sermon, offering/communion, benediction) to connect with our past and as a backbone for creative ways of expressing our faith. Sometimes we lift up our voices in prayer and other times we write them down and attach them to our prayer tree. Jake and Pastor Matt meet each week to reflect upon the past worship service and to plan upcoming gatherings. Pastor Matt chooses scriptures and themes that connect with our ongoing spiritual formation as a church community. We seek to be guided by a diversity of voices in prayers and music that reflect God's beloved community.

We wanted to invite the creativity of our whole church community by sharing the upcoming themes for our worship gatherings. Do these themes remind you of a story from the bible? A poem? Or piece of art? Would you like to write a prayer? Is there a song that comes to mind? Would you like to design the cover of the bulletin for one of these months?

Here are the themes:

May – Exile and Return – looking at the warnings of the prophets, the people of God being taken into exile and ultimately returning; God's faithfulness through it all

June – Pride month – expanding our understanding of God's beloved community

July – Poetry and Spirituality – allowing the imagination and creativity of poets to expand our understanding of sacred scriptures - do you have a favorite poet that you think would work well? (Mary Oliver was our poet last year)

August – We will use one parable and look at it from different angles for four weeks – do you have a favorite parable or story you think we should use? (Last year we reflected on the parable of the Good Samaritan)

Please email all creative suggestions to both Pastor Matt (matt@firstchurchoakland.org) and Jake (jake@firstchurchoakland.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.

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.



Remembering Rose Mary Richmond

from Linda Carter

Rose Mary loved our church history and used to conduct impromptu church tours, based on information that she got from Rev. John Turpin, who shared the same love of the sanctuary and our connections to the community. She taught me a lot and I eventually took her notes and came up with an updated script so I too, could answer questions from newcomers who came to Sunday services. I remember when she took over as Treasurer from Larry Weseman (who was an accountant) and we all struggled to unravel his rather complicated church finance books. But she, as always, prevailed. We partnered (albeit a bit grudgingly at times) over finances and grew to respect each other's strengths and sometimes different ways of doing things – I could always count on her to share her opinion! She was a member of Lakeshore Women (and a past President) and was always someone who could be counted on to roll up her sleeves and help.



from Diane Hill

Rose Mary Richmond was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church of Oakland. She was very proud of being the Church Treasurer. I was part of the three-member team that counted the Church Offering on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for years. Each of us had a job: I handled the checks, Rose Mary was the brains in the group, and Bill Bradshaw helped with sorting the money and took the counted offering in an old brown leather zippered briefcase to the bank.

Rose Mary was an active member and leader of the Lakeshore Women's group, a group of church women who raised money that was used for many projects at the church, including drapes for the the Fellowship hall, cement walkways and repairs, Sanctuary railings, dishes and silverware for the kitchen, etc.



Rose Mary had strong opinions and was not afraid to share them with you. I will miss her kindness and eagerness to answer questions, or help whenever asked or there was a need.

Rose Mary's Memorial Service

Rose Mary's memorial is being organized by her son, Michael. It will be held on Wednesday, June 10th at 2pm at Piedmont Community Church.



from Di Pagel

I met Rose Mary in 2007 when I started working at First Church Oakland. She was in the office pretty much every day and we became firm friends. I will always remember her sense of hospitality and generosity toward others. She was usually on the front lines in the kitchen and Fellowship hall whenever there were potluck lunches or celebrations. She loved being part of hospitality events. We ate out together frequently at local places before evening committee meetings, Womens' Circle or Godly Play for Adults and every time she would insist on treating me because as she put it, "you are doing God's work in this place and we have so much fun together too." I have missed seeing her at church and will always remember her sparkling eyes, her easy laughter and her strong, stoic and resolute spirit. I was reminded of that on my last visit with her in mid April. Even though she was confined to bed all she wanted to express was her gratitude for the caregivers around her.

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
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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

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

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

erick@firstchurchoakland.org

Temple Tidings

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