

Sunday, May 24, 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 *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Listen! Do you hear a sound like the howling of a fierce wind?

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Look! Can you see flames of fire?

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

One: Wait! Can you feel the power?

All: The Holy Spirit is here!

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy Spirit, power of God, come and fill us with your strength. May your Spirit touch each of us. Gather us with our different gifts into one community. Give us eyes to see your work. May the winds of the Spirit blow away our fears, and fill us with power. Open our hearts, that we may welcome everyone.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *This Little Light of Mine*

African American Heritage Hymnal #549

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Holy One, Divine Spirit, be with us now. It's easy to feel like our gifts and our talents aren't good enough for you. Help us see ourselves as part of a larger creation. While our gifts differ, each one is important, adding something wonderful to your world. Our gifts come from you, and they are what you want for us. Help us accept our own gifts. Enlarge our hearts, so that we may recognize and welcome others, each with differing gifts.

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: We are baptized into one body. The Spirit blesses us all.

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.

We are grateful that in the presence of the Spirit, we are not asked to forget ourselves but to remember. To remember where we came from, to recall the sound of our own cultures and languages. Help us to heal from those spaces that have demanded assimilation from us under the guise of unity. To belong, we are told we must exalt commonality over particularity. Teach us the kind of belonging that it is not threatened by those things that make us different but comes alive at the site of inclusion. Protect us from communities who only welcome our cultures as a theatrical symbol of their own benevolence. Lead us into spaces where our presence is longed for not as a mark of achievement but out of the deep recognition that hope cannot survive on one tongue alone. **Amen.**

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)*

Glory to God #701

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2. 1 - 12 NRSV

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

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 *Take My Life*, verses 1-4

Glory to God #697

Invitation to the Offering

God gives so many gifts to so many people. Grateful for God's abundant love, let us also bring our gifts to God.

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:



Solo *River Flows In You*

Yiruma

Prayer for the Offering

One: Holy one, you created all that is. Your breath sustains every living thing. In your creation, see your love of diversity. In our community, we celebrate the multitude of Spirit-filled gifts. Grateful for your care, we bring these gifts. May they spread your love to all people.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *We Are One in the Spirit*

Glory to God #300

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

Liturgist: Terry Muck

Keyboardist: Joe Warner

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Piano Soloist: Myles Ogden

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Raenelle Tauro and Monrovia Prinz

from *Whitsunday*

George Herbert

Listen sweet Dove unto my song,
And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long,
Till it get wing, and flie away with thee.

The sunne, which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head, and wisht for night,
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one
Going about the world, and giving light.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow,
That th' earth did like a heav'n appeare;
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages,
and serve here.

Lord, though we change, thou art the same;
The same sweet God of love and light:
Restore this day, for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

Stewardship Generosity

Have you been the recipient of generosity? Are you a generous person? The dictionary defines generosity as, "showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected."

As the recipient of God's generosity in so many ways, can you reflect this generosity back into the world in a new way, through greater gifts, or by responding to a different need?

At First Presbyterian we work together to feed people, to engage and serve our community, to worship and celebrate; please consider how you can be a greater part of the work that is happening in this place as we strive for the promise of the beloved community.



New Staff Member – Jen Edwell



Hi everyone! I am thrilled to serve as the new Church Administrator here at First Presbyterian Church Oakland. As many of you know, my background is in higher education. I have extensive training in rhetoric, experience working on administrative teams, and a passion for thinking deeply about religion.

My scholarly work has focused on the ways folks draw on religious doctrines and beliefs to grapple with big questions and problems. However, in academia, I'm usually commenting on this discourse from afar. So, I'm really excited to help find tangible ways the church can be effective while anchoring in deep truths and sacred convictions. I am eager to find ways to streamline processes, craft compelling communications that articulate what is important, practice stewardship of our beautiful building and resources, and support the many people and ministries connected to the church.

When I'm not working, you can usually find me taking care of my three young kiddos with my wife, April. We love exploring local parks and playgrounds around Oakland! Also, I'm always down to talk about theology, social justice, and parenting.

I'm so excited to step into this new role in this community. Please feel free to reach out (jene@firstchurchoakland.org), or you can find me in the office several mornings during the week.

Graduation Celebration with Taco Catering – May 31

We hope that you can join us on May 31st to celebrate the end of the school year. We have community members graduating from college and high school. Let's celebrate all the hard work of our students, teachers, and others who work in schools. During coffee hour, please head to the church courtyard to get a plate of tacos. Please plan on staying after our service to break bread together.



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.



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!

The Philosopher's Wrestling Club – June 18

Do you enjoy discussing philosophy, theology, and related subjects where wrestling with questions matters more or as much as any answers we might discern? If yes, then the Philosopher's Wrestling Club might be for you. The Club will gather monthly in homes, pubs, and cafes to discuss issues ancient, contemporary, and everything in between through a philosophical lens. The hope is that the club's wrestling with difficult issues will enrich and enhance our growth as members of Jesus' body, much as Jacob's wrestling with God was a formative experience in his faith journey. The monthly format or agenda will be decided with an egalitarian spirit by the group. Membership in the club is open – i.e. come when you can. If interested, contact Joel Mackey.

The group will meet on June 18th at 5pm. Plan to park at the church building and then walk together as a group.



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).

Practices of our Church Community – Ways to Join Us

Worship Service Each Sunday we gather at 10am to sing, pray, confess, and worship God together. We invite our community to participate in our worship services through singing, reading, praying, ushering, or sharing testimony. Do you like to write prayers or help connect music to themes in scripture? Talk with Di Pagel (Elder of Worship), Jake Fontana (Music Director) or Pastor Matt if you would like to help lead/design our worship services. You can also help us create space for conversation and building community through providing food during our coffee hour (11-12). Email Julia Marquez jmarquez@fbcl-visa.com if you would like to contribute.



Food Ministry Each week, more than 40 volunteers share over 300 meals with our neighbors through our food ministry. Volunteers gather donated food on Fridays and Saturdays from local supermarkets and bakeries. Meals are prepared on Sundays and Mondays and are shared with neighbors and delivered to local encampments. We have opportunities to serve during the week, each Saturday, and Sunday. Email Gay Plair Cobb gaycobb@gmail.com, Dorothy Dugger dorothy.dugger@gmail.com, or Nina Lapachet ninalapachet@gmail.com to get involved.



Bible Study Wednesday nights at 7pm via Zoom we gather around the sacred texts of scripture to study and reflect upon our lives and take new steps of faithfulness together. No need to study beforehand, just sign up for our weekly emails, click on the Zoom link and join conversation. Come with a desire to build community and listen for God's Spirit in the midst of scripture. Talk with Henry Gardner or Maggie Harmon or Pastor Matt for more details.



Building the Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. constantly spoke about God's work of building the beloved community - a community bridging across the differences of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability. Building the Beloved Community is one lens we use to look at all of our ministry at First Church. We also host conversations, book groups, attend concerts and art shows, to learn, reflect, and to help us build God's beloved community within our church community, in our neighborhoods, and city. Talk with Suzie Inadomi, Pastor Matt or Pastor Joel to learn about ways to join BBC work at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.



Faith in Action "Justice is what love looks like in the public" – Cornel West. How do we put our faith into action to love our neighbors? One way we live out our faith is joining the ministries of Faith in Action East Bay, who for over 40 years have advocated and worked in areas of gun violence, immigration, education, housing, and equity in Oakland and the larger Bay Area. Members of First Pres. regularly join FIA Ceasefire night walks, advocate for affordable housing, and seek to support new structural changes for equity and justice. Talk with Pastor Matt to get involved and our new community organizer Chris Logan.

Community Life - God is community Three in one and we are made for community. Creating spaces for community around meals, discussion groups, backyard firepits, and outings together (B's game, beach trip, etc.) are an important ministry within our church community. Do you like to host events, love connecting with others, enjoy building community? Talk with Julia Marquez or Pastor Matt and join them in planning our next community life events.



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

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email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

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Jen Edwell, Church Administrator

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Temple Tidings

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