

Sunday, May 31, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



An den Wassern Babylons
Gebhard Fugel

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 *By the Waters of Babylon*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: When we feel spiritually lost, where can we turn for help?

All: Our help is in the grace of God.

One: When we are imprisoned in our suffering, where can we turn for solace?

All: Our solace is in the mercy of Christ.

One: When we are trapped in the grip of misfortune, where can we turn for strength?

All: Our strength is in the power of the Holy Spirit.

One: Come! Let us worship God, our guide and guardian.

Gathering Prayer

One: Merciful God, though you often feel far from us, you meet us in our need. When our mouths know the taste of bitter tears, you bring us to the feast of your love and mercy. When grief threatens to steal our joy, you remind us to sing of happier times. When adversaries enjoy our misfortune, you rekindle the hope that lies hidden within us. When fear robs us of our courage, you fill us with the daring to begin anew. Be with us in this time of worship, that we may be brought back to life, through the grace of your Son, who walks with us in the journey of faith.

All: Amen.

Choir Anthem *Lament*

Mark Miller

My heart is breaking, my fury shaking,
my soul is tired, my breath is gone.
I ask, "How long, Lord, this evil season?"
Unending pain and tears.
My heart is breaking, my fury shaking,
my soul is tired, my breath is gone.
I cry, "How long, Lord, this evil season?"
Unending pain and tears.
Use our anger to melt the swords of hate.

Use our tears to water thirsty ground.
Give us courage to love all you create.
Come to us and turn the world around,
come to us and turn your world around.
Our hearts are breaking, our fury shaking,
our souls are tired, our breath is gone.
We cry, "How long, Lord, this evil season?"
Unending pain and tears.

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of eternal return, in times of bitter loss, we yearn to be called home. How often have we felt like exiles who sat down by the waters of Babylon to weep at all they had lost? How often have we caused harm and sent others into exile? How often have we looked the other way when we see and hear about our neighbors' suffering? Forgive us. Bring your hope and deliverance. In Jesus' name we pray.

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.

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.

THE WORD

Scripture Lessons

Lamentations 1. 1 - 6 NRSV

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become subject to forced labor.

She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers, she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.

Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations; she finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.

Her foes have become the masters; her enemies prosper because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

Psalm 137. 1 - 4

By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down, and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Holy Profanity*

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 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Glory to God #775

Invitation to the Offering

Let us practice generosity together by gathering our weekly offering to support the ministries of this church community.

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 *No Greater Love*

Rachel Lampa

Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple
here be-low; praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more; praise
Tri-une God, whom we a-dore. A-men.

Prayer for the Offering

One: You call us to bloom where we are planted, God, even when we feel like strangers in a foreign land. You invite us to play instruments and sing songs of joy, even when our hearts are heavy, and our spirits cry out in anguish. God of tender mercy, you alone can turn our tears of sadness into tears of joy. May the gifts we bring before you this day turn groans of despair into shouts of gladness. Bless this offering with your abundance power, that the world may know your grace and find life in the midst of death.

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* African American Heritage Hymnal #377

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: Henry Gardner

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Choir: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Godly Play: Anne Margaret Manay and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: taco truck in the courtyard

Graduation Celebration with Taco Catering Today!

We hope that you can join us after the service 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.



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.

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.



FAMILIES *Are* SACRED

CONVENTION

Here's What That Means This Year:

OUR PRIORITY BILLS

- **Pillar 1: End the profit-driven deportation and detention system**
 - **AB 2465 (Ortega):** Denies state benefits to corporations that run immigration detention.
 - **AB 1633 (Haney):** Taxes private detention centers to fund immigration services.
- **Pillar 2: Don't balance budgets on our most vulnerable families**
 - **AB 2161 (Bonta), AB 2208 (Stefani), SB 1422 (Durazo):** Protect affordable healthcare, including Medi-Cal access for immigrants.
- **Pillar 3: Safe and stable homes for every family**
 - **AB 736 (Wicks):** \$10 billion bond to build affordable housing.
- **Pillar 4: Justice that restores and strengthens communities**
 - **AB 1231 (Elhawary):** Expands diversion programs instead of incarceration.

**EVERY FAMILY DESERVES
CARE, SAFETY, AND RESPECT**



PICO
CALIFORNIA



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



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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

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

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

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email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Temple Tidings

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