

Sunday, June 7, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Gloria Anzaldua



Marlon Riggs



Andrea Gibson



Larry Kramer



Leslie Feinberg



Marsha P. Johnson

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 *A Mother of a Revolution!*

Omar Thomas

"A Mother of a Revolution!" is a 2019 orchestral work composed as a "celebration of the bravery of trans women, and in particular, Marsha 'Pay It No Mind' Johnson." The piece was written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall uprising. It blends a disco groove and marchlike feel to represent LGBTQ+ club culture and the ongoing struggle for justice and recognition.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: When God throws a party, the doors are flung wide.

All: There are no boundaries, no barriers, no walls.

One: When God throws a party, everyone is invited.

All: Not just invited, but enticed, encouraged, welcomed, just as we are.

One: When God throws a party, there are gifts for every guest.

All: There is total acceptance, understanding that surpasses human differences. There is amazing grace, and unconditional love.

One: We are the blessed ones. This is God's party. Let us rejoice in it!

Gathering Prayer

One: Joyful God, you celebrate the people we are, the people you created. As often as we have heard your invitation, there is still some corner of our hearts and minds that holds back, if just a little. We have been taught that if something seems too good to be true, it probably isn't true. That is our way, not yours. Help us to celebrate your love, to open and use thankfully the gifts you lay out for us. Help us to share your joy with others.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *All Are Welcome*

Glory to God #301

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Gracious and merciful God, temper our certitude with humility and grace. When we fail to discover our own errors, open our hearts to your wisdom. For we yearn to follow your ways and to perceive your presence more clearly. Come to us with gentle correction, that we may truly bring your good news to a world in need.

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: When we call, God answers.
When we seek, we are sure to find.
Call to God and seek the Lord with your whole heart.

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 remain in the sanctuary for Family Worship.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Write a word or prayer for what you hope on one side of your prayer tag and word/prayer for what you fear in this season on the other side. Bring your prayer tag forward and attach it to the prayer tree.

Solo *Testify to Love*

All the colors of the rainbow
All the voices of the wind
Every dream that reaches out
That reaches out to find
where love begins
Every word of every story
And every star in every sky
Every corner of creation
Lives to testify

For as long as I shall live
I will testify to love
I'll be a witness in the silences
When words are not enough
With every breath I take
I will give thanks to God above
For as long as I shall live
I will testify to love

Ty Herndon and Michael Passons

From the mountains to the valleys
From the rivers to the seas
Every hand that reaches out
Every hand that reaches out to offer peace
Every simple act of mercy
Every step to kingdom come
All the hope in every heart will
Speak what love has done

Mountains to the valleys, rivers to the sea
Hand that reaches out to offer peace
Simple act of mercy, kingdom come
Every heart will speak of what love has done
Colors of the rainbow, voices of the wind
Dream that reaches out where love begins
Word of every story, star in every sky
Every corner of creation
Lives to testify

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.**

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 14. 15 - 34 Message translation

That triggered a response from one of the guests: "How fortunate the one who gets to eat dinner in God's kingdom!" Jesus followed up. "Yes. For there was once a man who threw a great dinner party and invited many. When it was time for dinner, he sent out his servant to the invited guests, saying, 'Come on in; the food's on the table.' Then they all began to beg off, one after another making excuses. The first said, 'I bought a piece of property and need to look it over. Send my regrets.' Another said, 'I just bought five teams of oxen, and I really need to check them out. Send my regrets.' And yet another said, 'I just got married and need to get home to my wife.' The servant went back and told the master what had happened. He was outraged and told the servant, 'Quickly, get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal, all the misfits and homeless and down-and-out you can lay your hands on, and bring them here.' The servant reported back, 'Master, I did what you commanded—and there's still room.' The master said, 'Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in. I want my house full! Let me tell you, not one of those originally invited is going to get so much as a bite at my dinner party.'"

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection *Don't Miss Out on God's Party*

Rev. Matt Prinz

RESPONSE to the WORD

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song for Preparing the Table *Come to the Table of Grace*

Glory to God #507

Words of Institution

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.*



Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please come forward to sing as a church community around the Hammond organ.

Song *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. [x3]

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. [x3]

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine. [x3]

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. [x3]

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Blessing of Graduates

Music *Pomp and Circumstance*

Edward Elgar

Benediction *prayer by Rev. Karen Ziegler at the memorial service of Marsha P. Johnson*

Marsha taught us not to be ashamed, and Marsha taught us to turn up the volume.

Our hope is that as we go from this place we will not be ashamed of who we are, we will turn up the volume, and we will be more fully ourselves. We pray that you open your hearts and minds more and more, because of who she was and who she will always be.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Opening Liturgy by: Lawrence Reh

Liturgist: Dorrie Dodge

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: April Edwell

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Paul and Sarah Roberts

Deacons Celebrating Our Students



Tacos in the Courtyard for Our Graduates



Remembering Marsha P. Johnson

Marsha P. Johnson was one of the most prominent figures of the gay rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s in New York City. It was a time when gay/queer people were treated with hostility, and police raids on gay bars were routine. Johnson was at The Stonewall Inn, a bar that was popular among the poorest and most marginalized LGBTQ people, after a raid when the community decided to fight back. For being on the front lines at Stonewall, she has become an icon of Pride, but she could also be remembered as a saint.

Johnson grew up in a religious family, attending Mount Teman African Methodist Episcopal Church as a child, and she remained a practicing Christian for the rest of her life. After graduating from high school, Johnson moved to New York City and adopted the full name Marsha P. Johnson. The “P” stood for “Pay It No Mind,” a phrase that became her motto.



Johnson’s spirituality was characterized by reverence, joy, and celebration, and it was the foundation of her dedication to community care. In an interview from the documentary about her life “Pay It No Mind,” she said, “I got married to Jesus Christ in church when I was 16 years old. [...] He’s the only man I can really trust. He’s like a spirit that follows me around, you know, and he helps me out in my hours of need and listens to all my problems and never laughs at me. He takes me very seriously.” Johnson would light candles and pray at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Hoboken, New Jersey. She chose to practice Catholicism because, in her words, “the Catholic religion is part of the sangria of the saints which says we’re all brothers and sisters in Christ.” However, she frequented other places of worship as well. Her friend, Sasha McCaffrey, recalled, “I would find her in the strangest churches. She’d be wearing velvet and throwing glitter.”

Activist and author, Tourmaline, describes Johnson's faith in her biography, *Marsha: The Joy and Defiance of Marsha P. Johnson*. She writes that Johnson's "faith allowed her to see beyond *what exists*, because she saw what *could* and *ought* to exist. Like all great artists and innovators, she then sought to bring her visions to life, whether it was a beautiful dress or a mass movement built around love. She continued to turn immaterial ideas into material things. She couldn't ignore the challenges and violence around her, but she chose to use them as fuel to inspire herself and her loved ones to dream bigger. This wasn't just a high-minded principle for Marsha; the value of this practice was deeply felt" (249).

Johnson was a fierce advocate for street and transgender youth. She was quick to reach out to young queer folks in need of support, giving away what little she had to those with even less. In 1970, she and fellow trans activist Sylvia Rivera started Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), the first LGBTQ youth shelter in North America.

Johnson's devotion to caring for the marginalized, for standing up to injustice, and for seeking God with a prayerful, expansive heart can be a source of wisdom for us today.



Sylvia Rivera and STAR

Bead Sculptures for Pride

Felix Gonzalez-Torres's diaphanous and ephemeral bead-curtain sculptures are among the defining works of his remarkable career. Designed for installation as a threshold within a space—defining a moment of transition—they physically engage the viewer, who must pass through the cascading beads to navigate the space fully.



"Untitled" (*Golden*) is one of the last curtain works that Gonzalez-Torres conceived before his death. The artist recognized the potential of the inexpensive, mass-produced gold beads; indeed, he possessed an uncanny ability to produce elegant and restrained forms out of otherwise common materials. The beads conjure at once the pop or hippie culture of the late 1960s and 1970s as well as the glitz of opulence. Usually connoting wealth, solidity, and permanence, gold is rendered here as its opposite: inexpensive, permeable, and transitory.

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 to a cafe as a group.



Tech Support Available!

Simpli-Tech is a free volunteer service Micah Ogden has created, offering tech support for older adults. Whether it's setting up your phone, navigating the internet, or fixing a tricky device issue, Micah is here to help as patiently as possible. Reach out to (510)-871-7161 if you are interested.



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.

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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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

Jen Edwell, Church Administrator

jene@firstchurchoakland.org

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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