

Sunday, June 14, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Juneteenth 2026

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 *Little Melody*

Florence Price

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We all come to this place as partial failures.

All: We are always less than what we could be, what God has created us to be. That is what it means to be human.

One: But we come as people assured that failing is not a judgment against us.

All: We come as people already loved, forgiven, saved and renewed by the grace of our Creator.

One: We come as people for whom failing is not the end.

All: We come as people seeking to be better, to learn from mistakes, to follow the Jesus way.

One: We are not required to be perfect.

All: Failing, losing, forgetting, not knowing, can teach us more creative, more cooperative, more surprising ways of being—in God's blessed community and in the wider world. All of these are opportunities to wake up, to be aware, to learn, to trust and try again.

One: May we draw closer to God.

Gathering Prayer

One: Extravagant God, you trust and believe in us even when we doubt ourselves. Teach us, lead us, encourage us, inspire us to be your best people. Help us to serve not just you, not just ourselves, but everyone we meet in our lives, be they friends or strangers, people much like us, or people so different we hesitate to engage them. In everything we attempt, be our light and guide.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *How Firm a Foundation*

Glory to God #463

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: We love you, God, and we yearn to rest in your steadfast love. When we are restless, calm our spirits with your Holy Spirit. When we are lost, guide us back to you. When we are threatened, be our protective shepherd. We can't go this alone, God. Be with us, and remind us that you are with us. Help us believe, even where we have not seen, that your loving promises may bless our lives and guide our steps. In faith and trust, 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.

Assurance of Pardon

Please rise in body or spirit.

One: God listens closely to the deepest yearnings of our hearts. God is listening now. God has heard the cry of your heart, and will be steadfast in love and grace to answer our every need.

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.

Juneteenth Prayer

Cole Arthur Riley

Please join in reciting the text printed in bold.

God of broken chains,

On this day, we remember. We do not know how it felt when the word of freedom came—what release was felt in the bodies of those who made us, what disbelief, what joy, what sorrow. But would you allow some echo of it to resound in our bodies today?

We gather not just to honor freedom rung, but in protection and continuation of it. Let it resound clearly as we join voices on this day:

We pray for peace and deep rest for our ancestors. Those who labored without agency over their bodies for generations, and those who chose the sea.

Holding memory, we proclaim: **We will not be owned.**

We marvel at the dreamers—those who clung to an imagination for liberation regained. Those who fought, strategized, organized.

Holding memory, we proclaim: **We will not be owned.**

We thank you for those who became our own historians—who preserved culture in whispers by moonlight, transmitting song and name.

Holding memory, we proclaim: **We will not be owned.**

We grieve for the brutality of families alienated from one another, the daughter ripped from her mother's breast, sister torn from brother. And we honor all the ways our people formed new familial bonds, rising to nurture children and impart tenderness on those the oppressor sought to harden. Strengthen our own bonds now, that the invisible thread stretching between each holy Black soul would be fortified by compassion and intergenerational healing.

Holding memory, we proclaim: **We will not be owned.**

God, we pause for every body broken, bruised, and lynched. There are stories that reside in our bodies both known and unknown to us. Keep us near to our own

flesh, that we would protect one another from the brutality of white capitalism. May the rest and care that were denied to our ancestors be found in us today.

Holding memory, we proclaim: **We will not be owned.**

And this joy in us, this durable, defiant joy, would you shield it from the mouth of despair? Remind us there is no void that can match the strength of our collective hope. Keep our songs alive, every verse, every dance. May our humor survive, as we play and laugh. Show us the many faces of joy, that all who dare encounter it will find themselves at home.

Holding memory, we proclaim: **We will not be owned.**

Now may the same God who spoke to Harriet make the sound of liberation clear as night to us. May the divine hold us in the same holy darkness that protected our ancestors on the journey. And as we remember, may they shield us from despair, knowing that our story is more than pain. Ours is the story of dignity. Let us reclaim it.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Oh, Freedom*

African American Heritage Hymnal #545

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

John 8: 31b - 32 NRSV

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *The Truth Keeps Setting Us Free*

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 *Amazing Grace*

African American Heritage Hymnal #271

Invitation to the Offering

As God has promised good to us, so God invites us to offer promises of goodness to others in need. May our offerings be blessings of healing and hope to a weary world.

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 *Love Will Come to You*

Indigo Girls

Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all - bless - ings flow, praise God all
crea-tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove ye heav - en - ly
host, praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

Prayer for the Offering

One: Faithful and loving God, bless these gifts with your faithfulness and love. Bless our lives to be faithful and loving. And bless our world with your promises of faith, hope, peace, and love— knowing always that the greatest of these is love.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*

African American Heritage Hymnal #540

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

Liturgist: Gay Plair Cobb

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Liturgy Written By: Lawrence Reh and Cole Arthur Riley

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Raenelle Tauro and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Linda Carter

About Juneteenth

The Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the United States was issued on January 1, 1863. News of the Proclamation did not reach Texas until June 19, 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued. Texas was the last state in the confederacy to receive news of the Proclamation.

June 19th is now a nationwide holiday known as Juneteenth. Many freed slaves viewed the end of slavery as a biblical moment of Jubilee. The bible speaks of Jubilee in several places with Leviticus 25 perhaps offering the most substantive exposition on the meaning and purpose of Jubilee. The people of Israel during the period of their wandering for 40 years were invited to engage each other and to an extent, their non-tribal neighbors in a re-ordering of their lives. Leviticus 25 called the people to embrace the reality of an inextricable connection between their relationship with God and how they are to treat one another in their economic, social, and political spheres. Leviticus 25 points the way to a relationship with God that is inseparable from a relationship with each other.

Leviticus 25 provides a rendering of our economic, social, and political values that is arguably contrary to the values embodied in capitalism or any other economic system practiced in modern times or any time in history. The year of Jubilee takes seriously inequities that inevitably occur in human societies and seeks to ensure that such inequities do not persist generationally.

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.

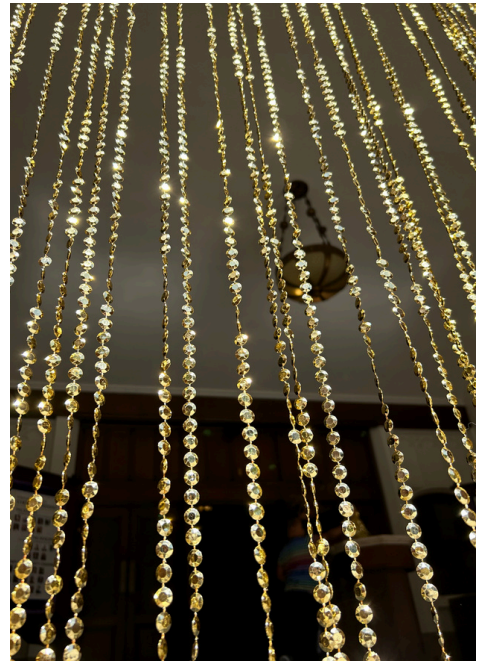


Sylvia Rivera and STAR

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.



Stewardship Generosity

“Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.”
James 2:18 (The Message)

How can you demonstrate what you believe is important; how can what you believe is important motivate you in what you do? This is stewardship: caring for the things we know to be important, taking the time to pay attention to what we are doing and make sure it aligns with what matters to us. How are you engaging as a steward of First Presbyterian Church and the things in this community that matter to you?



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.



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.

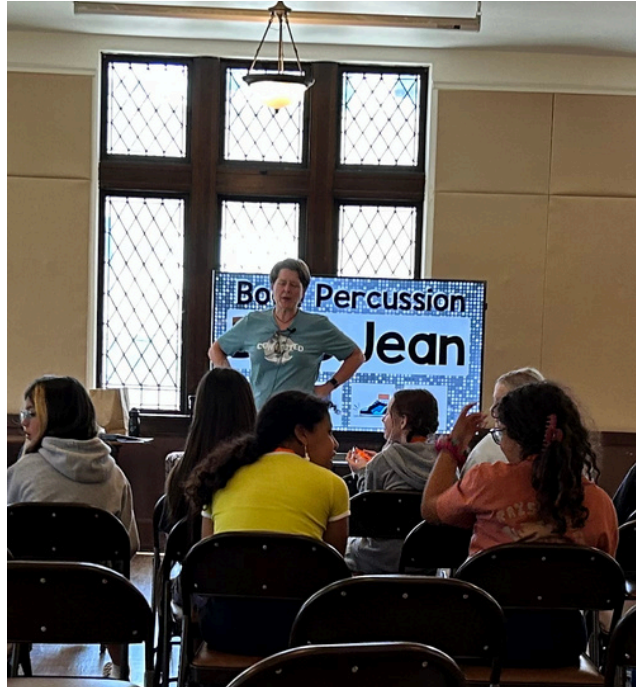


The group will meet on June 18th at 5pm. Plan to park at the church building and then walk together to a cafe as a group.

Scenes from Cantare Summer Camp

Cantare's summer music camp offered rising 4-9th graders a chance to go deeper with their love for singing, completely for free. Experienced singers took on more musical challenges and new singers got to experience the joy of choral singing for the first time.

Activities include choir rehearsals, musicianship training, team-building games, percussion instruments and xylophones, electives such as art, improv, dance, or piano, a field trip to East Bay Regional Park, and a culminating free concert for the community.



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

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Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

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email to make an appointment

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Temple Tidings

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