

Sunday, June 21, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Larry Kramer



Leslie Feinberg



Marsha P. Johnson



Bayard Rustin



Dorothy Allison



Audre Lorde

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

Welcome

Call to Worship

by Erina Kim Eubanks

One: Triune God of mystery-

Full of wonder, beyond comprehension-

All: Our dogma cannot contain Your truth.

Our binaries cannot hold Your vastness.

One: Creator, You formed the cosmos and all within it;

Made all your children in your very image.

All: The breadth of beauty and goodness held

In a diversity of bodies, sexualities, genders, and loves.

One: Jesus, You came to us enfleshed in queer form-

Poor, immigrant, brown-skinned, infant.

All: The paradox of fully human and divine

Challenging tradition and stretching religious imagination.

One: Spirit, You come to us as breath, wind, and fire.
You call “clean” what others deem unclean.

**All: Collapsing hierarchies, transgressing boundaries.
Speaking new utterances in ways that could not be denied.**

One: So stretch our hearts now, and unsettle our minds! Open us to the possibility of what we do not know.

**All: Move us from fear to love, from exclusion to embrace, as we marvel at
Your expansive mystery this day. Amen.**

Gathering Prayer

One: Spirit of God, you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. When all seems lost, you heal our hearts and give us strength to carry on. Set our hearts and minds on you, Holy Spirit, that we may know your abiding presence and your never-failing love.

All: Amen.

Choir Anthem *Child of God*

Mark Miller

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Loving God, as we seek you, search our hearts and ease our troubled spirits. Where we are frightened and unsure of your love, restore us with assurance of your grace. Even when we give up too easily, we long for the courage to reach new beginnings. We yearn to know deep in our bones that nothing in heaven or on earth can separate us from your great love.

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: Remember, beloved children of God, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God. Give thanks to God for this marvelous gift.

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.

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 remain seated.

Hymn *Nothing Can Trouble (Nada te turbe)*

Glory to God #820

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Romans 8. 38 - 39 NRSV

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Belén Morales

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

Rev. Joel will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon. Afterward, please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* African American Heritage Hymnal #471

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.*



Solo

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* Glory to God #300

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. Joel Mackey

Preacher: Belén Morales

Liturgist: Lorraine Provost

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Choir: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Ben and Martha Baab

Today's Guest Preacher: Belén Morales

Belén Morales (she/they) is a Mexi-Salvi queer former church kid now Bible nerd, child of immigrants from Oaxaca, Mexico and El Salvador. They dream of a world filled with revolutionary love, free of all oppression. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Patten University (Oakland, CA) and a Master of Arts in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, CA). Their research focused on the intersection between theology, race, gender, and sexuality.



In 2021, Belén started Root & Bloom Consulting where she co-creates liberatory practices with their clients to maximize their impact. Her clients include organizations that advance queer, immigrant, reproductive, and tenant rights. She is hella proud to hail from the great city of Oakland where she still lives. Belén enjoys reading, cooking, dancing with friends, and going to the movies with their fiancée.

FPCO Fall Retreat: October 2-4, 2026



Registration is now open for our Fall Church Retreat. We hope that you are making plans to join us.

This is a great opportunity to gather in a beautiful space, to step away from the everyday rhythms of life in order to build community with people in our community, and to connect with God. You don't want to miss this!

Here are the details:

Where: Zephyr Point Presbyterian Retreat Center, just north of South Lake Tahoe. It is a 3.5-hour drive from Oakland. We will arrange carpool rides for those who need transportation. Friday afternoon traffic to Lake Tahoe can be intense, so if possible, we encourage people to leave midday on Friday.

When: October 2nd-4th. We will gather for dinner and a short program on Friday night. Saturday morning, we will study scripture, reflecting individually and connecting with others. The afternoon will be open to explore retreat grounds, sit by the lake, play games, take a nap, etc. We will have a short program and possibly a campfire on Saturday night. Sunday morning, we will worship together following breakfast and then journey home.

Why: A church retreat creates space to deepen relationships. Through activities and over meals, we take time to go deeper in conversation. Also, the beauty of Lake Tahoe and time away from home allows space for reflection, examination of our lives, and connection with God. To register, please go to firstchurchoakland.org/retreat or scan the code below:



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.

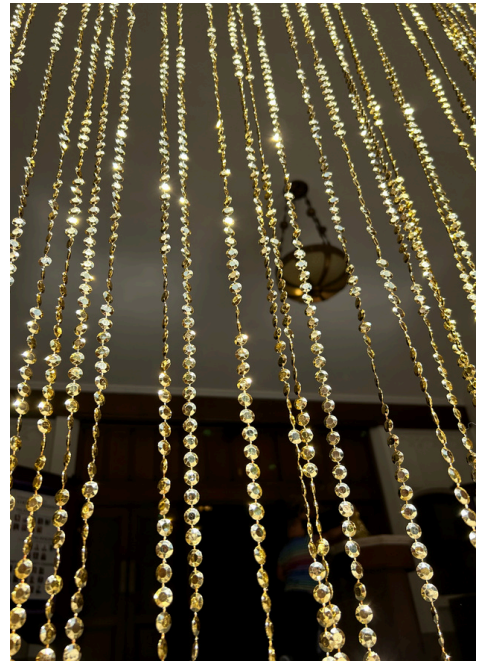


Sylvia Rivera and STAR

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.



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.



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.



Pastor Matt on Vacation



Wish Pastor Matt and the whole Prinz family well as they get some time away! Pastor Matt will return for worship on July 12.

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

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Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Erick Bevington, Treasurer

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Temple Tidings

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