

Sunday, June 28, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



James Baldwin



Gloria Anzaldua



Marlon Riggs



Miss Major Griffin-Gracy



Larry Kramer



Leslie Feinberg

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

One: We gather this morning ready to listen.

All: Open our ears, Lord.

One: We gather this morning ready to learn.

All: Open our minds, Lord.

One: We gather this morning ready to love.

All: Open our hearts, Lord.

One: We gather this morning ready to worship.

All: Open our spirits to receive you, Lord.

One: We gather to praise the Lord Almighty!

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy one, as we gather today, may we be like young Jesus and Samuel—eager to hear, eager to learn, and eager to minister to others. Meet us here in this sacred space. May our hearts and minds be open to your call, as we worship and praise your holy name.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* African American Heritage Hymnal #455

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of love, we long to hear your voice, but sometimes block our ears to the true words of love you speak into our lives. You offer words of love and acceptance, but we find reason to ignore them or withhold them from others. Be tolerant and forgive us in your love. For we yearn to find your perfect bond of unity in our relationships with one another and with the world.

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 feel like no one understands, sit at Christ's feet. Ask the hard questions and listen for answers. God will speak. You are not alone. You are loved.

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 rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *In Christ There Is No East or West*

Glory to God #318

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Colossians 3. 11 - 17 NRSV

In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Dress for Success*

Rev. Joel Mackey

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 *Take My Life*, vs. 1-4

Glory to God #697

Invitation to the Offering

Let us join God's generosity by giving our tithes and offerings.

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:



Music at the Offering

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: God of generosity, may your peace and your love seep into our hearts and our offerings, that we might become shining examples of light in a hurting world. Thank you for your many gifts– this gift of community, the enthusiasm for learning, the power of generosity, and the gift of love. May our gifts and our very lives bring your blessings to the world.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song

Now Thank We All Our God

Glory to God #643

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Joel Mackey

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Di Pagel

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Julia Marquez

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?



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.

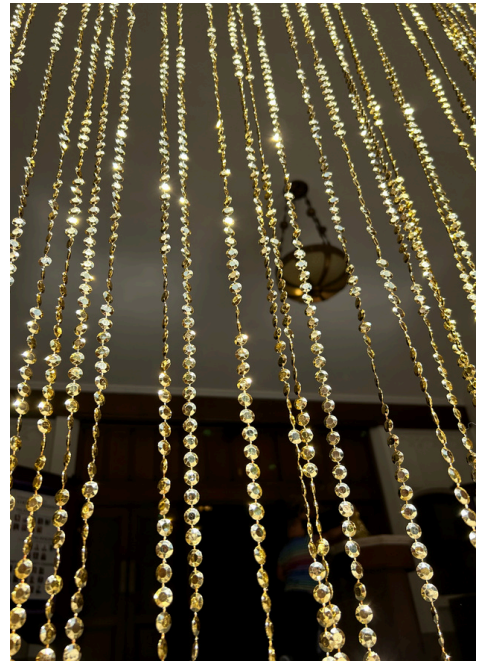


Sylvia Rivera and STAR

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.



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 Anne Margaret Manay, 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.



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

Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

Sign up to be on our email list:

firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings

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