

Sunday, July 12, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



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: Worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

All: Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

One: We are the sheep of God's pasture.

All: We are the lambs of God's flock.

One: Come! Let us worship the Lord.

Gathering Prayer

One: Living water, flow through our hearts today. Quench our thirst in our desert wanderings, and strengthen us for the road ahead. Bathe us in your fountain of eternal life, that our spirits may flow with faith and love, through the power of your eternal Spirit.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn

What a Fellowship

African American Heritage Hymnal #371

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Wellspring of salvation, quench our thirst this day. When our souls are parched, we long to taste the healing waters of your grace. When our spirits are as dry as desert sands, we yearn to find renewal in the well of your mercy and your love. Shower us in your living water that we may be washed clean in the river of your forgiveness and your grace.

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: Those whose souls drink of Christ's living water will never thirst again. Those who refresh themselves in Christ will have a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Glory to God #475

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

John 4. 1 - 27 NRSV

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ).
"When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"

Poem

A Ritual to Read to Each Other

William Stafford

If you don't know the kind of person I am
and I don't know the kind of person you are
a pattern that others made may prevail in the world
and following the wrong god home we may miss our star.

For there is many a small betrayal in the mind,
a shrug that lets the fragile sequence break
sending with shouts the horrible errors of childhood
storming out to play through the broken dike.

And as elephants parade holding each elephant's tail,
but if one wanders the circus won't find the park,
I call it cruel and maybe the root of all cruelty
to know what occurs but not recognize the fact.

And so I appeal to a voice, to something shadowy,
a remote important region in all who talk:
though we could fool each other, we should consider—
lest the parade of our mutual life get lost in the dark.

For it is important that awake people be awake,
or a breaking line may discourage them back to sleep;
the signals we give — yes or no, or maybe —
should be clear: the darkness around us is deep.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Art of Knowing Each Other

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 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Glory to God #727

Invitation to the Offering

Called to live in hope, invited to abide in joy: let us share the blessings we have so richly received from God.

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 *The Water*

Laura Marling and Johnny Flynn

Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Musical notation for the Doxology, consisting of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics "Praise God from whom all - bless - ings flow, praise God all". The second staff contains the lyrics "crea-tures here be - low. Praise God a - bove ye heav - en - ly". The third staff contains the lyrics "host, praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men." and ends with a double bar line.

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: Eternal Spirit, Source of healing and wholeness, receive our grateful hearts for your many blessings. Transform the gifts we bring this day into Christ's promise of living water for the world. Bathe those who are touched by today's offering in your goodness and grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Glory to God #761

Benediction

Bathe in the river of God's love.

Swim in the waters of Christ's baptism.

Ride the ocean currents of the Holy Spirit.

Be renewed in the warm springs of our God.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Linda Carter

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Paul Roberts

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Dorrie Dodge

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Martha Bauman

July Poetry: William Stafford

This month we will reflect on the poetry of twentieth-century American poet William Stafford. Born in Kansas in 1914, Stafford was a lifelong pacifist and a conscientious objector during World War II. He became a poet during his middle age and moved to Oregon to teach. Writing poetry was a daily ritual for Stafford, whose poetic themes include nature, humanism, mindfulness, and everyday life. His work deeply reflects his pacifist values as well as a lifelong affinity for Indigenous American culture and storytelling.



Assurance

You will never be alone, you hear so deep
a sound when autumn comes. Yellow
pulls across the hills and thrums,
or the silence after lightening before it says
its names- and then the clouds' wide-mouthed
apologies. You were aimed from birth:
you will never be alone. Rain
will come, a gutter filled, an Amazon,
long aisles- you never heard so deep a sound,
moss on rock, and years. You turn your head-
that's what the silence meant: you're not alone.
The whole wide world pours down.

The Way It Is

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

Can't Take My Eyes Off You
FROM PASSION AND DEVOTION TO NOSTALGIC HEARTBREAK



Saturday, July 18, 7:30pm
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
Sunday, July 19, 4:00pm
First Presbyterian Church of Oakland
cantare.me/love2026

Cantare:
Lifting Voices
Uplifting Lives

Stewardship Generosity

We have all heard that it takes a village to raise a child, or that many hands make light work. What these messages are really conveying is that we can accomplish great things, grow amazing people, and make an impact together.

Thank you for all the gifts you share with the church community to care for, support, build, and bring the open-heartedness of God to the world. As you think about your time, your unique gifts, and the assets you have to share consider what we can do next, together.



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:



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.



Agape Meal for Family Sunday



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
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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

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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welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings

Cover: "Samaritan Woman at the Well" by He Qi