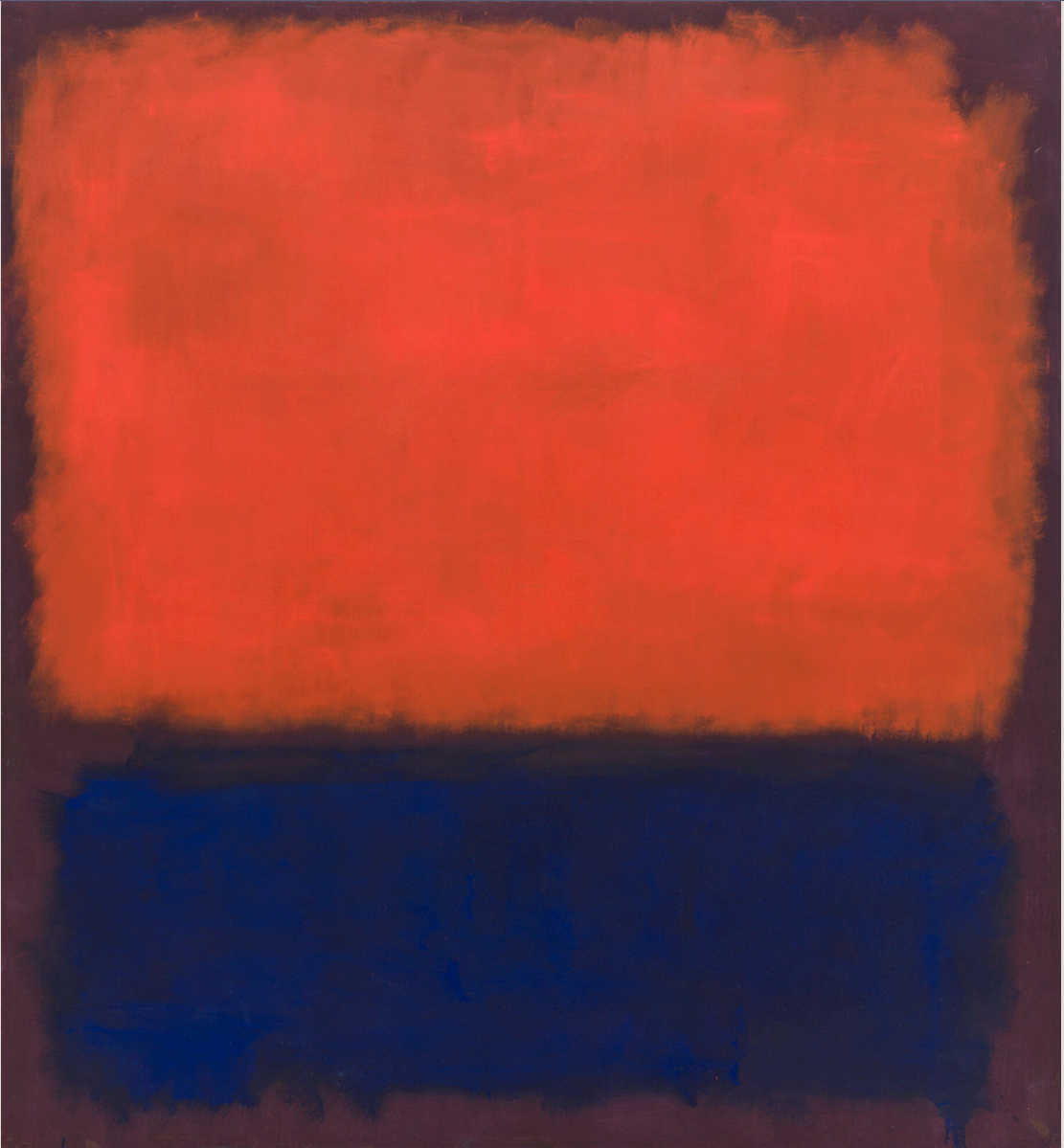


Sunday, July 19, 2026

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 *Prelude in A Minor*, BWV 543a Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God knows us better than we know ourselves.

All: Even in the darkest places, the light of God's love is there.

One: There is nowhere we can flee from God's presence.

All: In the heavens and in the depths, the Holy One abides with us.

One: We are God's children, serving the Lord from generation to generation.

All: God is the one who keeps promises and who provides for us wherever we go.

One: How awesome is this place!

All: This is God's house and a place for worship and renewal.

Gathering Prayer

One: Source of dreams, we seek to find deep renewal in our faithful worship and reflection. Sleeping humans are all around us, plugged into mindless activities, like scrolling, playing games, or watching for the trend of the day, rather than the deep hope of our souls. Our friends often sleepwalk through the day, looking for ways to stay isolated, rather than connected, actively working to avoid conflict and relationship building. We seek to remember our connection with you, as generations before us and generations to come. Come into this space and enliven our hearts, that we may feel your creative spirit guiding us into the next steps of where we should go to bring people into genuine community.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn *It Is Well with My Soul*

African American Heritage Hymnal #377

CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Abba God, as our heavenly parent, you have given us your words of direction to teach us how to live by eternal truths. Still, we struggle with the fleshly desires that slow our living into our most abundant lives. We ache for the breath of your compassion to restore us to spiritual health. Assist us to live in freedom instead of fear. Imbue our minds with deep compassion, that we may find fulfillment in caring for the world around us. Help us deal with the weeds of distrust, greed, anger, lust, isolation, jealousy, and egoism that manifest as abuses and denigration of others. May we be increasingly strengthened as your children and shine like the sun in our hurting 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: God searches and knows you. God is familiar with all your ways. God loves you as a precious child.

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 *Change My Heart, O God*

Glory to God #695

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 22. 1 - 2 NRSV

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.

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 lightning 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.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

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.*



Music During Communion

Improvisation

Bryan Dunnewald

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

Glory to God #839

Benediction

One: Slow down.
Pay attention.
You are not alone.
God is with you.

All: Amen.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Elizabeth Goodwin

Guest Organist: Bryan Dunnewald

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Anne Margaret Manay and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Maggie Harmon

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.



For My Young Friends Who Are Afraid

There is a country to cross you will
find in the corner of your eye, in
the quick slip of your foot—air far
down, a snap that might have caught.
And maybe for you, for me, a high, passing
voice that finds its way by being
afraid. That country is there, for us,
carried as it is crossed. What you fear
will not go away: it will take you into
yourself and bless you and keep you.
That's the world, and we all live there.

You Reading This, Be Ready

Starting here, what do you want to remember?
How sunlight creeps along a shining floor?
What scent of old wood hovers, what softened
sound from outside fills the air?

Will you ever bring a better gift for the world
than the breathing respect that you carry
wherever you go right now? Are you waiting
for time to show you some better thoughts?

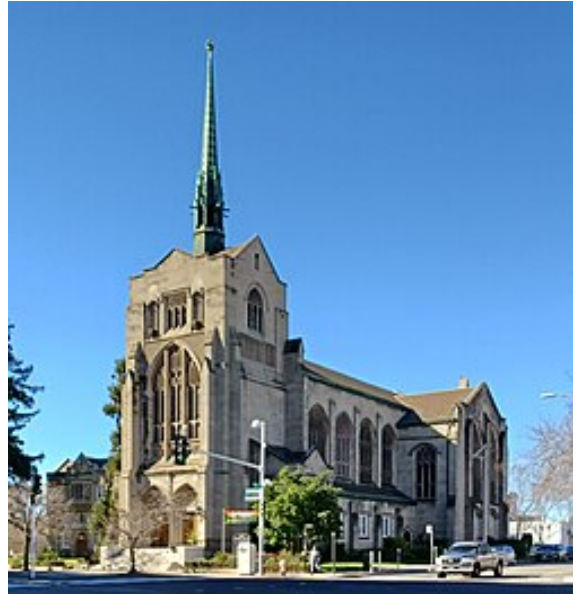
When you turn around, starting here, lift this
new glimpse that you found; carry into evening
all that you want from this day. This interval you spent
reading or hearing this, keep it for life –

What can anyone give you greater than now,
starting here, right in this room, when you turn around?

Campus Maintenance and Security Updates

There have been a lot of changes on the campus in the last year with new tenants, familiar faces retiring, physical remodeling, and more. The Session and staff are continually assessing how we make First Presbyterian a welcoming, vibrant, and healthy part of the community. As a part of those assessments, we have recently made some changes to the custodial and security structure for the campus.

As of July 1st, we have three groups focused on specific areas of support that we believe are responsive to the needs of the campus, community, and congregation today.



The 27th St. gate is a programmable “smart-gate” that can be remotely monitored and coded for access as needed. By utilizing these features, we no longer need to have the gate monitored throughout the day. If you need a code, please reach out to Jen in the office, or you can always dial the operator and be connected to someone to let you in during normal business hours.

Vigilant Eye Security, a refugee/immigrant owned organization will be providing trained, uniformed, but unarmed, security services on Sunday and Monday, as well as during special events and programs.

Mr. G. and team will continue to provide daily custodial services, maintenance of the Head Start classrooms, event support, and will ensure the campus is locked and secure as needed.

Cappstone Janitorial will provide deep cleaning services three times a week, focusing a lot of attention on the kitchen and the common areas.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ben Baab, Elder for Buildings and Grounds or Maggie Harmon, Elder for Finance.

Cantare Concert at FPCO This Afternoon at 4!

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

Remembering as an Act of Equity

Rev. Jorge Bautista

In our churches, we often speak about hope, transformation, and new life. These are beautiful and necessary words. But I am becoming more and more convinced that we cannot speak honestly about hope if we are unwilling to remember. We cannot move faithfully into the future if we refuse to look carefully at the past.

I believe that one of the temptations in our society is to treat time as if it only moves in one direction, always forward, always away from what has already happened. This way of thinking can be comforting, especially when the past contains pain, violence, exclusion, and wrongdoing. It allows us to say, “That was then,” or “We have moved beyond that,” or “Why keep bringing up old history?”



But for communities that have been harmed, history is not simply “back there.” The past continues to live in institutions, in families, in bodies, in churches, in policies, in memories, and in silences. The past continues to shape who feels welcome, who is trusted, who is heard, who is believed, who has power, and who is still waiting for repair.

This is why remembering is equity work.

For the Presbytery of San Francisco, and for each of our churches, I believe we must be willing to ask hard and honest questions about our own history. Not only the history we are proud of, but also the history we may have avoided. The truth is that if we look closely enough, we may discover that our institutional history contains more wrongdoing than we want to admit. We will find stories of exclusion, racism, silence, complicity, paternalism, displacement, and harm. We will also find that some of the people impacted by those histories are not distant figures from another century. Some may and are still alive. Some may and still carry those memories. Some may and are still sitting in our pews, or may have left our churches long ago because they were never fully welcomed.

To remember these things is not about shame for the sake of shame. It is not about becoming stuck in the past. It is about telling the truth so that healing, accountability, and repair can become possible. It is about refusing the easy comfort of forgetting. It is about recognizing that the work of racial equity is not only about what we do next, but also about what we have not yet been willing to face.

As a Presbytery, I believe we have a responsibility to learn our history honestly. We need to ask: Who helped build our churches? Who was excluded from leadership? Whose neighborhoods were impacted by our institutional decisions? Whose labor was used but not honored? Whose stories were never recorded? Who was harmed by our silence? Who left because there was no room for their full humanity? These questions are spiritual, theological and equity questions.

Finally, the work of remembering requires patience. It requires humility. It requires distance, not the kind of distance that helps us avoid responsibility, but the kind of distance that allows us to see more clearly. It requires us to listen to elders, search archives, revisit old minutes, examine past decisions, and pay attention to the stories that were never centered. It also requires us to listen when people tell us that something painful is not as far away as we think.

My hope is that the Presbytery and the churches will continue to develop the spiritual discipline of remembering. Not as a one-time project, but as an ongoing practice of faithfulness. Because when we remember truthfully, we make room for repentance. When we remember courageously, we make room for repair. When we remember together, we make room for a more just and honest future.

I also want to share that in June, I completed my first year serving as your Race Equity Coordinator. I am deeply grateful for this past year, which has been a year of developing relationships, listening, learning, and beginning to understand more deeply the life of the Presbytery.

As I enter this next year, I believe it is time for us to create space, in creative and faithful ways, to remember together. Not simply to remember for the sake of looking backward, but to remember for the sake of creating a more just Presbytery. I am excited for what we are going to accomplish together in this next year, and I look forward to continuing this important work with all of you.

May we have the courage not to forget. May we have the humility to learn what we do not yet know. And may our remembering become part of the holy work of repair, justice, and beloved community.

Register Now for Our October 2-4, 2026 Church Retreat



Join us at Zephyr Point at Lake Tahoe to gather in a beautiful space, step away from everyday rhythms of life, build community with other members, and connect with God. firstchurchoakland.org/retreat

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



Scan this code with your smartphone for access to all 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 Irmeter, 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

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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