

Sunday, August 2, 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: Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

All: In God's freedom, we are a new creation.

One: Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

All: In God's mercy, we are a new creation.

One: Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

All: In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

One: Come! Let us worship the one who makes all things new.

Gathering Prayer

One: Merciful God, you seek the lost sheep of your pasture; you call out to all who have strayed. As the father welcomed the prodigal son home, receive us back into your loving arms. Your steadfast love, God, knows no bounds. Your loving embrace is always there for us. Be with us in our time of worship, that we may feel your presence and know that you are our true home.

All: **Amen.**

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn

Sanctuary



CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: In your love, God, we are never lost. In your care, Christ, we are ever found. Help us feel this truth in our very bones, for we are often far from home, unsure of how to return. Teach our shut-up hearts to embrace your hope. Teach our shriveled souls to cry out to you. For we long to taste the glory of your heavenly banquet, and we yearn to be held in your arms as beloved children.

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 welcomes us back with loving arms.

All: **Amen.**

Song

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

"Amazing Grace" was written by a slave ship captain who repented, converted to Christianity, and became a prominent abolitionist. His journey, and these lyrics, reflect the biblical story of the Prodigal Son.

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 remain for worship.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Write a word or prayer for what you hope on one side of your prayer tag and word/prayer for what you fear in this season on the other side. Bring your prayer tag forward and attach it to the prayer tree.

Solo *Amazing Love*

Billy James Foote

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.**

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 15 . 11 - 32 NRSV

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living.

When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Rev. Matt Prinz

RESPONSE to the WORD

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song for Preparing the Table

I Need Thee Every Hour



1. I need thee ev - ery hour, most gra - cious
 2. I need thee ev - ery hour; stay thou near
 3. I need thee ev - ery hour; teach me thy
 4. I need thee ev - ery hour, Most Ho - ly



Lord; no ten - der voice like thine can peace af -
 by; temp - ta - tions lose their power when thou art
 will, and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful -
 One; O make me thine in - deed, thou bless - ed



-ford.
 nigh.
 -fill.
 Son.
 I need thee, O I need thee, ev - ery hour I



need thee! O bless me now, my Sav - ior— I come to thee!

Words of Institution

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 *Falling Slowly*

Glen Hansard

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Song

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm
3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to



grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for
 come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly
 be! Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
 to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
 wan - dering heart to thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the
 strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God; he, to
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my



mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
 res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Benediction

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Sadie Anderson

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Connected and Connectional

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland is a part of a much larger denomination (PCUSA) that connects us in ministry to thousands of churches across the country. While sometimes that can feel like a lot of bureaucracy (we do like our committees), it means that we are not alone as we do the work of building God's kingdom here, today.



In response to changes that were made by the Federal Government to immigration policy in 2025, our regional governing body, The Presbytery of San Francisco, set aside \$250,000 to provide grants to organizations and individuals impacted by the shift. In June of this year, First Church applied for three individual grants to help refugee families from Afghanistan, that members Chris and Maggie Harmon have been working with for the last few years.

All three grants were awarded and each family has received \$5,000. For one family, who just welcome a baby and has four older children, this means autonomy in buying furniture and household goods they need for their two bedroom apartment. For another family of seven it will provided support in accessing transportation to and from work, helping to stabilize their income. And for the third family of ten it will help the primary working parent pay educational program fees for job training.

Because we are a part of something greater than ourselves we were able to access resources beyond our own church, and to have a significant impact on the lives of over twenty-four people!

If you would like to get involved in work at the Presbytery level and experience more of that connectional church feeling, let Maggie know and she can put you in touch with the right people!





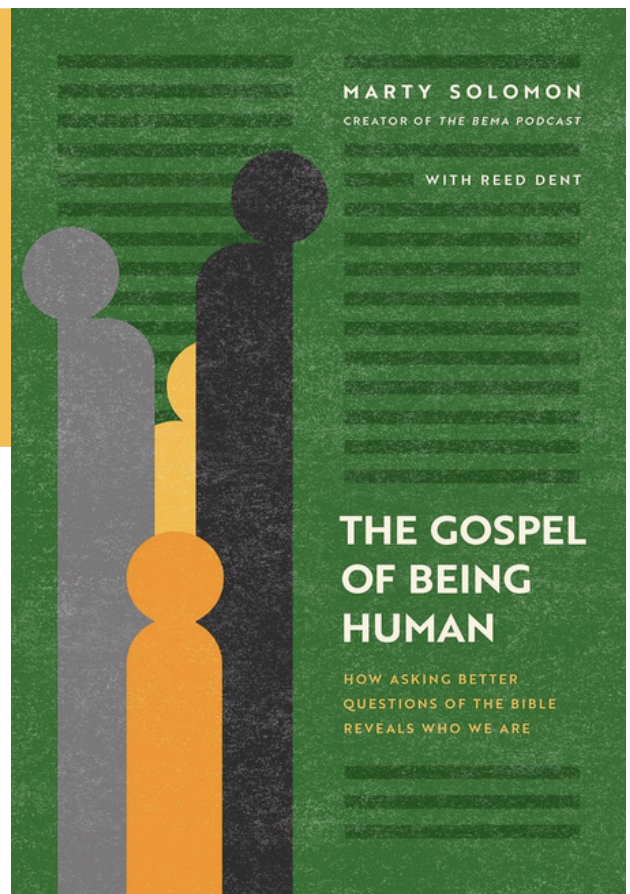
Join FPCO in cheering on the Ballers!
Aug 23 @ 1:05pm at Raimondi Park.

Please register by scanning the QR code. Sliding scale payment options.
Contact Suzie with any questions (sinadomi@gmail.com).

**August 10 @
7-8:30 pm**

Marty Solomon, creator of the BEMA Podcast and President of Impact Campus Ministries, will be giving a book talk at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.

Many Christians have been taught to see themselves as fundamentally broken—with a human nature defined by sin, separated from God, and constantly striving to be worthy. They have been taught that being human is something to overcome—that their deepest instincts, emotions, and desires are untrustworthy. But what if that's not the whole story? What if God is inviting us to see our humanity as, in fact, very good news?



INTERFAITH PUBLIC MEMORIAL AND PROCESSION

*Honor The Dead
Love The Living*

Remembering Lorenzo, Johan, Jesus and too many others.
Lifting up Carlos, Ulises and survivors in ICE detention today.
Calling on ICE and CoreCivic to allow hugs at Cal City Detention Center
Please Dress in Black



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH
11AM - MEMORIAL AT ICE
630 SANSOME ST., SF**

**12PM - PROCESSION TO
333 BUSH ST., SF**



SCAN HERE

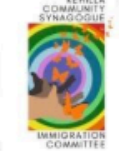


GET INVOLVED AT CAL CITY DETENTION CENTER

Sisters of Mercy



KEHILA COMMUNITY SYNOGOGUE



Join the Interfaith Public Memorial and Procession on **Wednesday, August 5th** to honor Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, Johan Sebastian Guerrero, Jesús Manuel Arenas-Silva, and the many lives recently lost at the hands of ICE.

Register for event: bit.ly/HonorthedeadIM4HI



FOSNA
FRIENDS OF SABEEL NORTH AMERICA
A Christian Voice for Palestine

presents:

Huwaida Arraf



Huwaida Arraf is a Palestinian-American civil/human rights attorney and social justice activist. She has been involved in legal, political, and grassroots initiatives for Palestinian rights for the last two decades, including co-founding the Nobel Peace Prize-nominated International Solidarity Movement (ISM), and leading the Free Gaza Movement which, beginning in 2008, organized sea voyages to Gaza to confront and challenge Israel's illegal blockade on the two million Palestinians living there.

Visit fosna.org/huwaida

**Sunday, Aug 16, 3-5pm – FOSNA and NorCal Sabeel Present:
Huwaida Arraf, co-founder of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla**

Plymouth United Church of Christ
(424 Monte Vista Ave. Oakland, CA 94611)

Visit [the website](https://fosna.org/huwaida) above to register.

Note: You can also join this event online! Select “Virtual Attendance” at registration.

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: Youth and Family
Gay Plair Cobb: Personnel/Food Ministry
David Alexander: Personnel
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

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

Cover: "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Rembrandt