

Sunday, August 9, 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: Come, all ye faithful...

All: To worship, praise, and pray.

One: Come, all ye unfaithful...

All: For God's love welcomes us home.

One: Come into the presence of Christ...

All: For Christ's grace makes us new and whole.

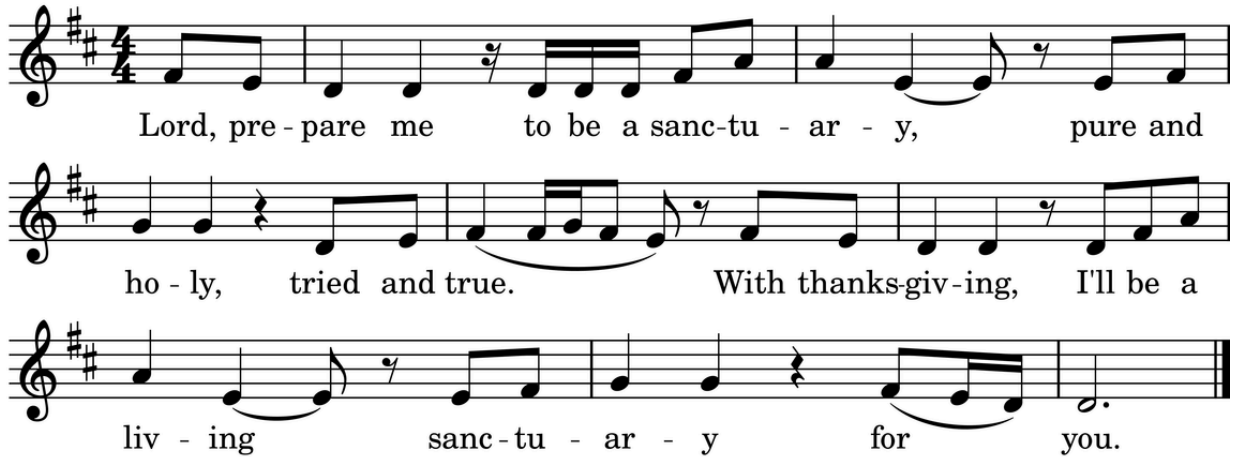
Gathering Prayer

One: God of ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this day. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Hymn Sanctuary



CONFESSION of SIN and ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Father-Mother God, welcome us home when we wander afar. Restore us with your compassion and love. Transform us with your miraculous grace, that we might become the new creations you envision us to be. Strengthen us with the power of your Holy Spirit, that we might offer others the same welcome, grace, and love that you have offered us. In your beloved name, we pray.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing this verse from "Amazing Grace."

**Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

"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

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 *I'm So Glad*

I'm so glad Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad Je-sus lift-ed me, sing-in'
Glo - ry, Hal - le - lu - jah, Je - sus lift-ed me!

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me...

When I was alone, Jesus lifted me...

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 15. 11 - 32 The Message

Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father. When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *But What About Me?!*

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 *Lord, I want to be a Christian*



1. Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart._ In my heart, _ In my heart,_ Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. *Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart...*

3. *Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart...*

4. *Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart...*

Invitation to the Offering

In gratitude for all that God has done for us and as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, let us share our gifts with God and God’s world.

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 During the Offering

Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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: With glad hearts, we offer these gifts to you, God. Transform them with the power of your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may bring forth new life. May our offerings transform others' lives into the new creation you promise to all.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit to join in singing.

Song *Lead Me, Guide Me* (printed on following page)

Benediction

One: Created anew in Christ,

All: We go to proclaim new life in the world.

One: Transformed by God's love and grace,

All: We go to bring love and grace to all.

Stewardship Generosity

“Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.” – Deuteronomy 15:10

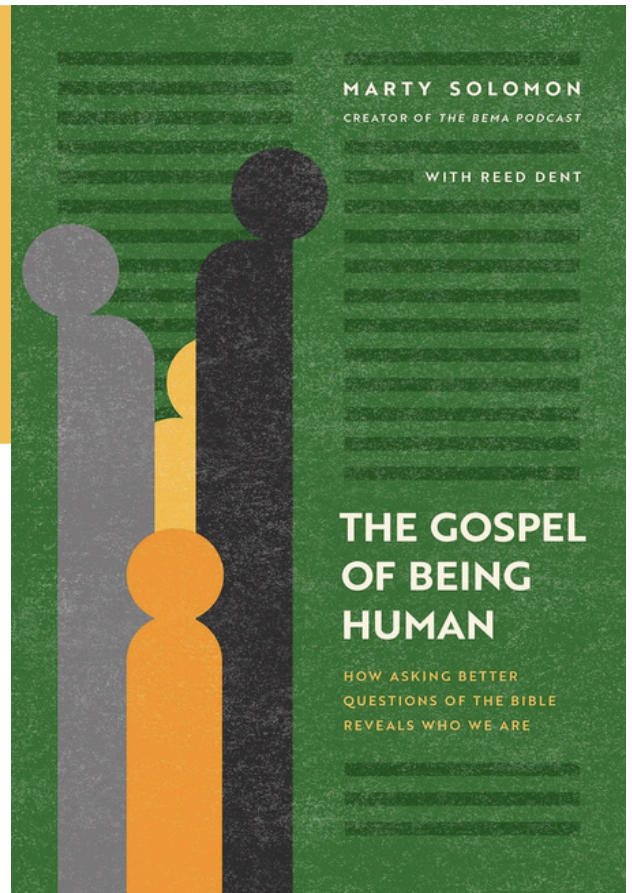
Can you help First Presbyterian Church do more to support those in need in our community? Your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure let us build a strong community of care and support as we respond to God’s challenge to be open-hearted and open-handed.



**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?





FOSNA presents:
FRIENDS OF SABEEL NORTH AMERICA
A Christian Voice for Palestine

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.

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 provide 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!



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:

- 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
- Oakland Taiko
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale



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
Maggie Harmon, Interim Treasurer

Deacons

Martha Baab, Martha Bauman, Cassandra Flipper, Charmaine Irmiter, Lorraine Provost, Pam Prinz, Paul Roberts

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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

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