

First United Church of Oak Park

15 Jan 2012



An open community united in love and justice

848 Lake Street – Oak Park, Illinois 60301

708.386.5215 www.FirstUnitedOakPark.com

Preparing for Worship

“Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger women and men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, but to power equal to your tasks. Then, the doing of your work will be no miracle – you will be the miracle. Each day you will wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.”
– Phillips Brooks

*Please stand if you are able—**Speak in unison at the bold face areas.**
Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC

Chaconne in F minor

Johann Pachelbel

Gathering as God’s People

*CALL to WORSHIP

Rob Leveridge

(based on Psalm 139 in *The Message*)

God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand.

I’m an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I’m thinking.

You know when I leave and when I get back; I’m never out of your sight.

You know everything I’m going to say before I start the first sentence.

I look behind me and you’re there, then up ahead and you’re there too.

Your reassuring presence is coming and going.

This is too much, too wonderful – I can’t take it all in!

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;

All the stages of my life were spread out before you.

The days of my life all prepared before I’d even lived one day.

Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me.

Cross-examine me and test me, get a clear picture of what I’m about.

See for yourself whether I’ve done anything wrong, then guide me on the road to eternal life.

Amen.

*HYMN 351

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

BORNING CRY

(black hymnal)

CALL to CONFESSION

The work of justice begins with a proper recognition that injustice is real. Let us confess the stronghold of sin that would consume us. And let us be awakened by the movement of the spirit that gives us life.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

We begin with a minute of silence, acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone.

God of justice, whenever we settle for the way things are instead of the way you would have them be, forgive us. Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you. Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us the more excellent way that your love requires. Whenever we tire of the struggle and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope. Accept us as we are, but don't let us stay this way too long. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we acknowledge the wrongs around us and the work before us, God's mission of peace with justice is being revealed in our midst. Always remember. Never forget. Your burden of sin has been lifted! The liberating love of God is at work within you! Amen.

PASSING the PEACE* The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.
Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Listening for God's Word to Us

TIME for SHARING

Leah Fowler

SONG OF ILLUMINATION *(sing three times)*

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Geonyong Lee

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come now, O Prince of peace, Make us one bod-y,

Come, O Lord Je - sus, Rec-on-cile your peo-ple.

A READING from the
FIRST TESTAMENT

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (OT, p. 577)

A READING from the
SECOND TESTAMENT

Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37(NT, p. 120)

SERMON

"The Beloved Community"

Julie R. Harley

*HYMN 497
(black hymnal)

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Up to the Mountain

Patty Griffin

Meredith McGuire, soloist and Julian Chin, accompanist
(Please place pink prayer cards in the offering plates.)

*DOXOLOGY
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all people here below, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rick Steele

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.

*HYMN 570
(black hymnal)

We Shall Overcome
(soloist sings vs. 1-2, congregation joins in verses 3-6)

WE SHALL OVERCOME

* CHARGE and BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

Laudation

Gilbert M. Martin

Next Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012

11:00 am Worship

Sermon: "What Have You to Do with Us?"

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Today at First United

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

were written by J. Bennett Guess, director of publishing, identity and communication on the national staff of the United Church of Christ.

THANKS TO MEREDITH MCGUIRE AND JULIAN CHIN

for today's offertory music. Meredith grew up in the First United Church and has returned with her family. She is the choral director at Oak Lawn Community High School and also the a cappella ensemble An Octave Above. Julian Chin continues to be the up and coming go-to guy for jazz, pop, rock, Broadway, and even a bit of classical.

WORSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD During the offertory (the music played or sung while we receive the offering) you'll hear a powerful song offered by Meredith McGuire. God loves music and loves when we pray to and praise God with our voices and instruments. That's why each week you'll hear a lot of music in worship. It's every bit as important as the spoken word. You can count with your child the number of times you find music in worship today.

Upcoming Events

GOV. QUINN TO MEET WITH COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY

SUPPORTERS We will bring 50 members of First United to a Martin Luther King Day Assembly from 9:30 am to noon on Mon, Jan. 16, at Kingdom Baptist Church in Austin (301 N. Central Ave.). State legislators will be there to hear from our youth and adults about justice priorities, including education funding reform, affordable rental housing and job opportunities for ex-offenders. Meet in our parking lot at 9:00 am to carpool.

PRIMETIME CHILI COOK-OFF JAN 28 will be in Centennial Hall on Saturday, January 28th 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. This potluck dinner will feature various chili soups, green salads, cornbread and dessert. There are famous chili recipes floating around (even an Obama Chili), and we will have a

fun time picking a favorite. Your \$10 contribution will build our funds for 2012 events. RSVP by January 23rd to Anna Sadowski – 708-386-7896 or annahsadowski@gmail.com. Let her know what dish you plan to bring. Questions? Contact event coordinator Sue Saliny – 708-848-2757.

DEPUTY DIR. OF PROTESTANTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD SPEAKS JAN 31 Join Evening Division on Thursday, Feb 2 and hear Laura Dean Friedrich, Deputy Director of Protestants for the Common Good, speak on the **REALITIES** of the Illinois State budget. Come and hear a timely and relevant discussion of Illinois budgets and revenues especially with the start of the spring session of the General Assembly on January 31st. Dinner at 6:00 PM in Centennial Hall is \$15.00. Call Ruth Ashman at 708-366-3689 by January 31st for reservations or sign up at the Elders Desk. Program begins at 7PM with no reservations needed.

WOMEN'S RETREAT FEB. 3-5, 2012, "COME OUT AND PLAY" Sign up for our annual Women's Retreat at Siena Center in Racine, WI. Rev. Mieke Vandersall, Director of Presbyterian Welcome in New York, will lead an exploration of the theology of play. The retreat begins on Friday night and ends at 1 pm Sunday, and it is held jointly with Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. Cost is \$160 and financial scholarships are available by contacting Leah Fowler. For questions or registration info, contact Jackie Eckholm at 708-386-5478 or jmeckholm@comcast.net.

MIDPOINT GAME NIGHT FRI, FEB 10 It's time to get your game on! All 30 to 50-something members/friends are invited to a Game Night at 7:30 pm on Feb. 10 at the O'Shea's home (413 S Grove Ave). Please BYODOC (bring your own drink of choice); appetizers, desserts, and games will be provided. Contact Rick Pollock (richard@pollock.net; 708-524-5125) or Julie O'Shea (Julie O'Shea soshea15@comcast.net 708-383-8598) if you have any questions.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY MESSENGER BELL is Tuesday, Jan. 17 (regular deadline is the 15th of the month or the following business day if the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday).

ADULT ED ON JAN. 22, 9:30 AM

- **Israel/Palestine Conflict** (2 of 7-part series) Led by Ms. Niveen Sarras, a doctoral candidate in Old Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology and a Palestinian Christian, this section will examine the ecumenical, theological statement coming out of Bethlehem using the theme “A Word of Faith, Hope and Love.” (Centennial Hall)
- **Living in Intentional Community** (part 2 of 2) Is it possible to practice elements of intentional community even if you are living in an apartment, condo or single-family home? How does intentional community living help promote an eco-friendly, spiritually rich way of life? Lead Pastor Julie Harley teaches (Chapel)
- **Bible Study The Minor Prophets** have ushered us through 2011; now we will go in depth with The Beatitudes. (Conference Room). Newcomers always welcome.

NEW MEMBER CLASS! If you've been attending First United and feel a sense of belonging in this community, we invite you to participate in the membership class in February. This class will give you a thorough overview of our life as a congregation: what we believe, what we value, what we do. At the end of the class, participants will have the option of joining the congregation as members. The class will meet for four sessions, Sunday mornings at 9am. There are online sessions available for people with scheduling conflicts on Sundays. Sign up with one of the blue cards near the entrance to the sanctuary, or by emailing Pastor Rob Leveridge, at rleveridge@firstunitedoakpark.com.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUN, JAN 29

The meeting will be held from 9:00 to 10:30 am in Centennial Hall for all ages, taking the place of education classes that morning. Breakfast will be served. Annual reports for 2011 will be available next Sunday.

WALK-IN MINISTRY HAS IMMEDIATE NEED FOR:

- Non-perishable food items for emergency sack lunches
- CTA \$2.25, \$2.50 and 7-day transit cards and passes.
- Volunteers for Job Readiness and Financial Literacy programs

Please visit walk-in-ministryopr.org for details.

Weekly Calendar

SUN, JAN. 15

FUSH/FUJI Youth Groups 6 pm

MON, JAN. 16

Church Office Closed for MLK Day

TUE, JAN. 17

Library Committee 6 pm

Council Meeting 7:30 pm

WED, JAN. 18

Bible Study 11 am

Adult Choir 7 pm

Cluster Tutoring Board Meeting 7 pm

AA Marion Group 8 pm

THUR, JAN. 19

Cluster Tutoring 6:30 pm

FRI, JAN. 20

FUSH Retreat 7:15 pm

Peace Prayer Vigil 7 pm

SAT, JAN. 21

FUSH Retreat (all day)

Inner Peace World Peace 8:30 am

Our Whole Lives FUJI Retreat 8:30 am

SUN, JAN. 22

Adult Ed & Bible Study 9:30 am

QUEST Parent Check-in 9:30 am

Worship 11 am

FUSH Retreat Return 2 pm

FUSH/FUJI Youth Groups 6 pm

Contact Us

Julie R. Harley, *Lead Pastor*

Leah Fowler, *Associate Pastor*

Rob Leveridge, *Associate Pastor*

Marylen Marty-Gentile, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Rick Steele, *Pastoral Intern*

William Chin, *Director of Music*

Michael Surratt, *Interim Organist*

Adam Wilson, *Office Manager*

Fred Henders, *Operations Manager*

Julie O'Shea, *Financial Manager*

Joan White, *Nursery School Director*

General Office Email

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Church Office Hours:

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Mon - Fri 8am – 4pm

Walk-In Ministry Phone and Hours:

708-386-1946, Mon–Sat 10 am-11 am

Food Pantry Phone and Hours:

708-386-1324, Sat. 9-noon, Wed. 3:30-5pm except 1st Wednesdays 7-8:30pm