

First United Church of Oak Park

8 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

“Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from Heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’” Mark 1:10-11

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Aria

Paul Manz

Gathering as God’s People

*CALL to WORSHIP

Rick Steele

O Christ, by your epiphany your light shines upon us, giving us the fullness of salvation. Help us show your light to all we meet today.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ of glory, you humbled yourself to be baptized, showing us the way of humility. Strengthen us to serve you in humility all the days of our life.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, by your baptism you cleansed us from our sin, making us children of God. Give the grace of being a child of God to all who seek you.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, by your baptism you sanctified creation and opened the door of repentance to all who are baptized. Make us servants of your gospel in the world.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, by your baptism you revealed to us the glorious Trinity when the voice from heaven proclaimed, “This is my beloved son,” and the Holy Spirit descended upon you like a dove. Renew a heart of worship within all the baptized.

Amen.

*HYMN 492
(blue hymnal)

Baptized in Water

Bunessan

In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage.

Silence is kept.

In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. 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

Julie R. Harley

Listening for God’s Word to Us

TIME for SHARING

SONG OF ILLUMINATION *(sing three times)*

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Geomyong Lee



Come now, O Prince of peace, Make us one body,



Come, O Lord Jesus, Reconcile your people.

*A READING from the
FIRST TESTAMENT*

Genesis 1:1-5 (OT, p. 1)

Rick Steele

*A READING from the
PSALTER*

Psalms 28 (OT, p. 504)

Marylen Marty-Gentile

*A READING from the
SECOND TESTAMENT*

Mark 1:4-11 (NT, p. 34)

Frank Yamada

**HYMN 71*
(blue hymnal)

Lord, When You Came to Jordan

GENEVAN

SERMON

“Troubling the Waters: Wading into our Future”

The Rev. Frank Yamada Ph.D., President, McCormick Theological Seminary

OFFERTORY

Wade in the Water

William Chin, arr.

(Please place pink prayer cards in the offering plates.)

**DOXOLOGY*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise Christ all people here below, Alleluia, Alleluia

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen

**Commissioning Gabrielle Worley as a missionary to Lebanon through
Global Ministries**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

Almighty God, who out of your great love gathered one church by the power of the Holy Spirit to be the light of the world, we thank you for those in all ages who have given their lives to tend it, to care for it, to lead it, and to serve in every way to forward its ministry.

Now we thank you especially for Gabrielle Worley, whom we commission in your name for the ministry to which you have called her.

Guide, inspire, and empower Gabrielle in her mission work in Lebanon, and keep her faithful to your call. Give her courage. Bless her work among your people.

By her life and witness, may your church continue to be blessed and its mission brought closer to the fulfillment you intend; through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

THE INVITATION

Leah Fowler and Rob Leveridge

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

LAND OF REST
arr. Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bles - sed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Richard T. Proulx, © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714599.

The pastor will pray, concluding with: "Great is the mystery of faith."

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

We will serve communion by intinction today.

COMMUNION MUSIC

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star Max Reger, Niels Gade

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.

** CHARGE and BENEDICTION*

SENDING MUSIC

Tocatta in E minor

Johann Pachelbel

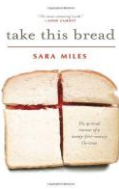
Next Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012

11:00 am Worship

Sermon: "The Beloved Community"

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Acts 4:23-37

Welcome to First United



Are you new to First United? We'd like to give you a gift – no strings attached. A greeter or a pastor can give you a copy of the book *Take This Bread*, which is a story of someone who came to Christian faith as she engaged in service with poor and vulnerable members of her community. We hope this story will be a blessing to you as you grow in your own relationship with God, and we're very glad you have joined us for worship today!

All are invited to coffee hour immediately after worship in the lounge.

Our Council priority is to build relationships that Bless, Challenge and Transform... with God, with each other and with the world.

Our Vision for the Future has three core themes:

1. Moving from words to God-pleasing actions in our relationship with God.
2. Moving from individualism to intimacy in our relationship with others.
3. Moving from providing charity to changing structures of injustice in our relationship to the world.

We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. We seek to be an inclusive expression of Christ's body celebrating our diversity while finding our unity in Christ. We are a "More Light"/"Open and Affirming" congregation, committed to the full inclusion of GLBT people in membership and ministry, and advocating for full inclusion in political life.

Today at First United

THE CALL TO WORSHIP, prayer of confession and assurance of pardon come from the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship*. The commissioning prayer comes from the *United Church of Christ Book of Worship*.

OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY IS THE REV. FRANK M. YAMADA Ph.D., President and Cyrus McCormick Professor of Bible and Culture at McCormick Theological Seminary. He is the first Asian American to serve

as president of a Presbyterian Church USA seminary. Prior to becoming president, Dr. Yamada was the Director of the Center for Asian American Ministries and Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at McCormick. He also taught Hebrew Bible for nine years at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston. He is author of *Configurations of Rape in the Hebrew Bible: A Literary Analysis of Three Rape Narratives* (Peter Lang) and an editor for and contributor to *The People's Companion to the Bible* and *The People's Bible*, a cross-cultural study Bible (Augsburg Fortress). Dr. Yamada is a minister of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church USA.

TODAY WE ARE HONORED TO COMMISSION GABRIELLE WORLEY as a missionary to Lebanon through Global Ministries, a United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) joint mission. Gabrielle grew up at First United Church, was a Quest (Confirmation) and Fifth Grade Church School leader, a FUJI advisor, and musician in worship. She is a 2011 honors graduate of Roosevelt University, with a bachelor's degree in political science. In Lebanon, Gabrielle will work with Iraqi refugees through the Middle East Council of Churches. She will also work with the Forum for Culture, Development and Dialogue, a faith-based initiative aiming to restore dignity to marginalized, oppressed, and dehumanized individuals and communities. Both groups partner with Global Ministries to serve oppressed and refugee communities.

WORSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD Baptism is part of worship today and an important part of our life as Christians. With baptism, Jesus began his ministry. Same is true for us, no matter the age. When we are baptized, we become part of God's work in the world. Baptism is our ordination. You are your child can live into your call by sharing God's love with the world, right here, right now.

EPIPHANY CONCERT 4 PM - Please join friends from other churches in the Oak Park area for a concert at 4 pm today here at First United. Started in 2001, this community gathering has become a special and meaningful tradition. This year's concert will feature an audience carol sing, adult and children's choirs, instrumentalists performing music of Christmas and Epiphany, and a reception. A free will offering will be collected for the Walk-In Ministry.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.
- Dr. Howard Thurman

Upcoming Events

ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Annual reports for 2011 (150 words or less) are due tomorrow. Please email them to Adam Wilson at office@firstunitedoakpark.com.

DINNER AND A MOVIE ON FRIDAY, JAN. 13, features *Midnight in Paris*, starring Owen Wilson, directed by Woody Allen. This comedy centers on nostalgia and vocation, taking stock of one's life. Dinner is at 6:00 pm (\$5 per person) and the movie and discussion starts at 6:30 pm, led by Julie. Ernest Hemingway stars in the film!

GOV. QUINN TO MEET WITH COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY SUPPORTERS We would like to 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.). Gov. Quinn, Sen. Don Harmon, Rep. Camille Lilly and other 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. To register, see Sarah or Erin Harmon in the lounge or contact Julie (jrh@firstunitedoakpark.com).

PRIMETIME CHILI COOK-OFF JAN. 28th 6 PM Cook-off 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 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. If you are new to PrimeTime, this big party is an ideal time to connect with a great group. Questions? Contact event coordinator Sue Saliny – susaliny@aol.com.

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.

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. 15, 9:30 AM

- **Israel/Palestine Conflict** (1 of 7-part series) Get a speedy review of history from the late 1800’s to the present political situation, led by Pauline Coffman of the Adult Education Committee. Throughout this series, we will delve deeper and hear from several different speakers about the complexities in the region. Centennial Hall
- **Living in Intentional Community** (1 of 2-part series) Lead Pastor Julie Harley will describe elements of intentional community, which has been a Christian practice since the time of the early church. She will also share her own plans to found an intentional co-housing community in Oak Park. 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.
- **We Have a Teenager** For those who participated in last month's classes and would like more chance for discussion, there will be a group meeting in the GYM to continue conversations. Bill Hayden and Pastor Leah Fowler will co-facilitate.

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.

WALK-IN MINISTRY HAS IMMEDIATE NEED FOR:

Non-perishable food items for emergency sack lunches. Ideal items include: protein such as individually packed tuna or chicken salad kits, juice or water, individual serving applesauce, cracker and cheese packs, granola bars, spoon/fork and napkin.

CTA transit cards and passes. \$2.25 and \$2.50 transit cards for job interviews and other emergency transportation needs. \$28 7-day passes for transportation to new job prior to first paycheck.

Volunteers for Job Readiness and Financial Literacy programs.

- Individuals with HR or hiring experience to coach clients in the job readiness program.
- Individuals to teach basic computer and internet skills to support internet job search and application.
- Individuals to offer one-on-one budget counseling as part of new financial literacy classes. First class meets Jan 24 & 31 at 7pm. Budget counseling also needed as follow up after the class. These free financial literacy classes will be taught by professors or graduate students from Dominican University's Center for Economic Education.

Weekly Calendar

SUN, JAN. 8

Music at First – Annual Epiphany
Concert 4 pm
OWL Parent Meeting 6 pm
FUSH/FUJI Youth Groups 6 pm

MON, JAN. 9

Nominating Committee 6:45 pm
Youth Board Meeting 7 pm
Planned Giving Committee 7 pm

TUE, JAN. 10

Communications Committee 8 am
Tech Ministry 12 noon
Deacons Meeting 7 pm
Finance Meeting 7 pm
Shawl Ministry 7 pm
Youth Committee 7:30 pm

WED, JAN. 11

Bible Study 11 am
Adult Choir 7 pm
AA Marion Group 8 pm

THUR, JAN. 12

Cluster Tutoring 6:30 pm

FRI, JAN. 13

Peace Prayer Vigil 7 pm

SAT, JAN. 14

Inner Peace World Peace 8:30 am

SUN, JAN. 15

Adult Ed & Bible Study 9:30 am
Worship 11 am
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 Ministries*

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

Church phone

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