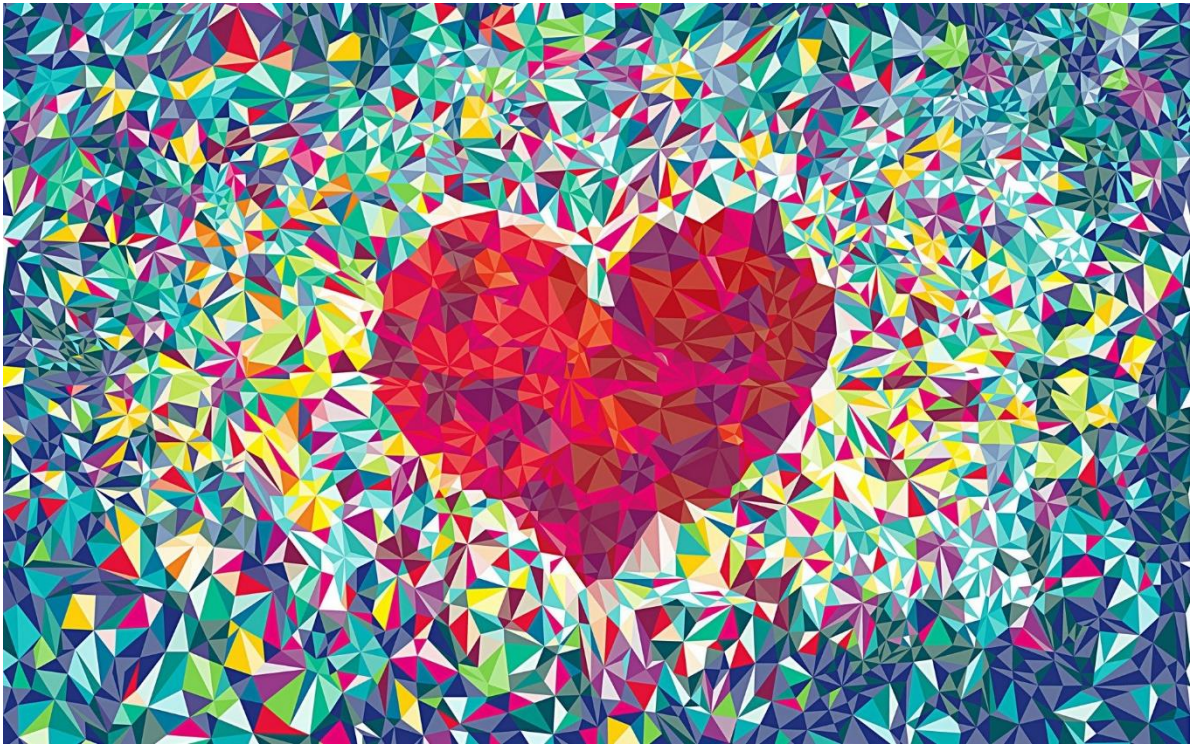


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
20 AUGUST 2017



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Activating our light and our full potential requires that we embrace our shadow.
Realizing our wholeness requires us to become big enough to hold our brokenness.”

- Derek Rydall

*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC

Variations on 'O God, Our Faithful God'

J. S. Bach
blue hymnal 277

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red connections pad.

Britt Cox

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Alicia Reese

Come, all who are weary and burdened. It is here that you will find rest.

We come, bringing our joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams to God.

Even though many things in life hurt and disappoint us, God is with us.

We seek God's mercy and grace to heal our wounded souls.

Come, now is the time to give to God all the brokenness you have experienced.

Healing and Restoring God, touch our lives and bring us to wholeness with you. Amen.

*HYMN 461

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

blue hymnal

CALL TO WHOLENESS

Alicia Reese

As a part of the prayer for wholeness, you are invited to hold in your hand a piece of broken pottery and take a moment to individually reflect on the questions below. There is blank paper for journaling your thoughts in the back of the bulletin, and later in the service you will be invited to share in conversation with someone you did not come to church with.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Where have you experienced brokenness in your own life story, in your church community, or in our larger world?

Where do you see God at work putting those broken pieces together toward wholeness?

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God's grace smooths over the jagged edges of our brokenness; the fractured pieces of our lives are bound together by God's healing embrace. The God who created us knows our true stories and loves us anyway. The journey toward wholeness is never-ending and God is with us every step of the way. This is good news!

Thanks be to God!

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

*BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Great Teacher, bless this backpack and bless this student.

May there be sharp pencils in this backpack that match this student's sharp mind that is ready to be challenged.

May there be big erasers in this backpack that match this student's ability to see every mistake as an opportunity for growth.

May there be notebooks with endless blank pages in this backpack that match this student's openness to new ideas.

Great Teacher, because we know there is much work to be done, may this backpack's straps be strong, its zipper free of jams, and its padding durable enough to meet the task.

And with this blessing, may this student find the strength to be ever learning, ever growing, and ever a blessing to each person they meet.

We pray this in the name of the child who left his parents to sit and learn at the feet of rabbis in the temple, and at whose feet we are all students. **Amen.**

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken

IONA COMMUNITY



Lis-ten to the Word that God has spo-ken, Lis-ten to the One who is close at hand;



Lis-ten to the Voice be-hind cre - a-tion, Lis-ten ev-en if you don't un-der-stand.

READING Romans 12:3-10 (NT p. 162)

REFLECTION The Direction of Wholeness Britt Cox

COMMUNITY REFLECTION All the People of God
You are invited to pair up with someone close by and that you did not come to church with today. Share aloud your reflections on brokenness and wholeness together. Your time together may be short, but may it be meaningful. May it be an invitation to connect outside of worship.

Where have you experienced brokenness in your own life story, in your church community, or in our larger world?

Where do you see God at work putting those broken pieces together toward wholeness?

ORGAN MUSIC FOR REFLECTION *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* blue hymnal 282
Settings by J. S. Bach and Helmut Walcha

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 394 *There Is a Balm in Gilead* BALM IN GILEAD
blue hymnal

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain. During the hymn, you are invited to come forward with your piece of broken pottery, pink prayer cards and/or contribution as an offering to God. You may then continue singing the hymn while seated. We will pray over what has been offered up to God following the hymn.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Britt Cox

***DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Steve Pierce

**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.**

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

***HYMN 280**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

blue hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Let It Breathe on Me



Let it breathe on me, — let it breathe on me, — let the breath of the
Spi - rit breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, — let it
breathe on me, — let the breath of God now breathe on me.

SENDING MUSIC

Fugue in G minor

J. S. Bach

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED



PLEASE RECYCLE your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

JOIN THE DEACONS for prayer and anointing in the chapel following Worship.

HEARING AMPLIFICATION DEVICES--INCLUDING T-COIL CABLES, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, BIBLES AND HYMNALS are available for use during worship. Please talk to a greeter to obtain these items and return the amplification device to the greeter. Large print bibles and hymnals should be returned to the table behind the middle pews.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

BOUNDARY TRAINING – TAKE TWO (AUGUST 26) The second of three options for boundary training will take place on Saturday, August 26, from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This is mandatory for all who work with children and youth in our congregation. Contact Lydia with questions: lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com

ORIENTATION FOR ALL CHURCH SCHOOL LEADERS - Saturday, August 26, from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

BOUNDARY TRAINING – LAST CHANCE! This is the third and final option for boundary training, which is mandatory for all who work with First United children or youth. This training will be Sunday, August 27, from 4-6:30 p.m.; dinner will be provided.

FUSH AND FUJI ADVISOR ORIENTATION - FUSH and FUJI advisors will meet for an orientation on Sunday, August 27, from 6:30-8 p.m.

90-PLUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! For all who are 90 years and older—We celebrate with friends, family and fellow First United members. There will be plenty of cake, punch, balloons, congratulations and wishes for good health and happiness! Join the celebration immediately following worship next Sunday, August 27/

CHURCH WORK DAY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 (VARIOUS TIMES) Gathering Day is nearly upon us and there is much to do to prepare our worship and learning spaces for the program year. Would you like to help? Contact Britt Cox at 708-386-5215 ext. 105 or bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com

WELCOME - We're glad you joined us for worship. Learn about First United:

- Visit the welcome desk in the lounge or the visitor table in the narthex to receive more information about the church and a gift to take home with you.
- Sign the registration pad when it's passed.
- Speak with any greeter or minister or join us for coffee hour following worship.
- Contact Britt Cox at 708.386.5215 or bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com for information about Newcomers Gatherings and any additional questions.

ABOUT US - 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 full inclusion of GLBTQ people in membership & ministry.

WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN - We welcome all children to participate fully in worship. Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery (just off the lounge). Accompanied by a parent, these children may leave after Time for Sharing.

WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

10:00 am Worship
11:00 pm Deacon 101 Training
3:30 pm Roger Burgess Memorial Service

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

7:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

4:30 pm Pro music Youth Chorus meeting
7:00 pm Implementation Planning meeting
7:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

6:30 pm Summer Vespers Worship
7:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Board meeting

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

9:00 am Boundary Training
11:30 am Church School Leader Orientation
7:00 pm Rookery Concert

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am 90-Plus Birthday Party
3:00 pm PFLAG
4:00 pm Boundary Training
6:30 pm Youth Advisor Orientation

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM
708-386-5215**

Steve Pierce, Pastor of the Gap (847-997-6836)
Britt Cox, Associate Pastor (ext. 105)
Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103)
Alicia Reese, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministry
William Chin, Director of Music (ext. 108)
Michael Surratt, Organist
Donna Montgomery, Church Administrator (ext. 102)
Amanda Swanson, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100)
LynToya Pate, Financial Assistant (ext. 106)
Keith Liesse, Head Custodian
First United Church Nursery School
Prevail/Housing Forward
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry
The Kid's Klose, children's clothing ministry

spierce@firstunitedoakpark.com
bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com
lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com
areese@firstunitedoakpark.com
bill@firstunitedoakpark.com
msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com
donnam@firstunitedoakpark.com
office@firstunitedoakpark.com
lpate@firstunitedoakpark.com
kliesse@firstunitedoakpark.com
708.848.4910, www.firstunitedschool.com
708.386.1946, www.housingforward.org
708.386.1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org
susanzaruba@gmail.com



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848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

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