

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
27 AUGUST 2017



**identity**

*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"I AM are two of the most powerful words. What you put after them shapes your reality."  
- Anonymous

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

**GATHERING MUSIC**    *Seven Variations on "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*    Joel Raney  
1. The Tiny, Tiny Baby  
2. The Busy, Busy People  
3. The Thunder and the Lightning  
4. The Little "Bitty" Creatures  
Yollanda Bornhoff, piano; Michael Surratt, organ

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER**    Please sign and pass the red connections pad.    Lydia Mulkey

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**    Alicia Reese

There are days when we proclaim you a pest,  
**constantly prodding us to reach out to others.**

There are days when we say you are a fool,  
**to imagine we might take up crosses to follow you.**

There are days when we lament you as Broken Heart,  
**as your world grows more violent, more hurtful, more hateful.**

So, this day, let us start over and simply say,

**you are our Hope, our Peace, our Comfort, our Guide, our Joy, our God in Community, Holy in One.**

**\* HYMN 11**    *Bring Many Names*    WESTCHASE  
black hymnal

**CALL TO PRAYER**    Britt Cox

### PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

**Holy God, we confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples. The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but you are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. Forgive us for looking for our identity in all the wrong places. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim your true identity and ours, and go forth to serve your people.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

### ASSURANCE OF LOVE

The God Who Is makes a way for you. She holds your hand and insists upon life. You are a channel of her love, now and always.

**Praise the God of love who was, is, and forever will be!**

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

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

Isaiah 51:1-3 (OT p. 681)

Britt Cox

READING

Matthew 16:13-20 (NT p. 18)

SERMON

True Identity

Lydia Mulkey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN 314

*Community of Christ*

LEONI

black hymnal

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Offerings are a sacred act of worship. We invite you to use the green giving cards in the pew rack to celebrate what you've already given or to make an additional donation.

OFFERTORY

*Seven Variations on "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*

Joel Raney

- 5. All My Joy
- 6. All Our Sorrow

\*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

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 495

*Called As Partners In Christ's Service*

BEECHER

black 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

*Seven Variations on "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"*

Joel Raney

- 7. The Whole Wide World

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

## **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 today.

## **PEACE IN COLOMBIA - Today at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel**

Hear all about the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Accompaniment program and the latest in the peace process in Colombia. Lora Burge is the coordinator and will bring us up to date on our connection to the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia as we work in partnership toward peace in a post-guerilla war torn country. Sue Cossey will recount her 2016 Accompaniment experiences.

**THIS SUNDAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in celebration of all our members and friends who are 90-plus years old!

**TODAY'S STARGAZER LILY** is in loving memory of Jeff Ritsert, former First United member and son of First United Children's Choir Director and Evening Division President Elaine Pierce. Jeff, 25-years-old, died by suicide on Thursday, August 24, 2017. Memorial service information will be shared as it becomes available.

## **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 today from 4-6:30 p.m.; dinner will be provided.

**FUSH AND FUJI ADVISOR ORIENTATION** - Tonight from 6:30-8 p.m.



**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

**FUJI YOUTH INFORMATIONAL PARENT MEETING** - Wednesday, September 6, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Chapel

**FUSH YOUTH INFORMATIONAL PARENT MEETING** - Wednesday, September 6, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Chapel

## **FUJI AND FUSH BBQ**

Sunday, September 10, at 5 p.m. on the Kenilworth Lawn

FUSH & FUJI will kick-off their year with a welcome back BBQ. Youth, families and advisors are invited to come socialize and enjoy fellowship with one another!

## **DINNER AND A MOVIE: *HIDDEN FIGURES***

Friday, September 8

In the race to space between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, three black female mathematicians play a key role in launching astronaut John Glenn into outer space, making him the first American to orbit Earth. Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation), Movie at 6:30 (free) Sign up at the Lounge desk or call Nancy Pennington, 708-386-9195.

## **CHURCH WORK DAY**

Saturday, September 9, 9 a.m. - Noon

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? There will be three teams working in different areas of the church: 1) Sanctuary 2) Outdoor 3) Church School Closets. We ask that you sign up so we can know how many people will be around to help. Sign up on the sheet located at the Lounge desk or contact Britt Cox at 708-386-5215, ext. 105 or [bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com).

## **CLUSTER TUTORING NEEDS YOU!**

You don't need an education degree to be a volunteer tutor, just a desire to help a child learn. Tutoring takes only 90 minutes a week throughout the school year. Come to one of two orientation meetings for new tutors at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 7, or Tuesday, September 12, at First United. Questions? Call 773-378-5530 or email [info@clustertutoring.org](mailto:info@clustertutoring.org).

## **STANDING WITH OUR AUSTIN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS**

See September Messenger Bell to see how you can help Team New Moms and support the Austin Power 5K run/walk on Saturday, September 23. We are sponsoring Team New Moms and invite you to get involved. It's time to go east of Austin!

# Moving from

*words to witness*  
in our relationship with God,

*individualism to intimate*  
fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church community,

*charity to changing*  
structures in our relationship with the world.

**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. Include your email to receive our weekly e-news and devotional!
- 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](mailto: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.

**ABOUT WORSHIP -** Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence and giving. If you have any questions about what we do, please ask a minister or a member.

**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.

**RESTROOMS & WiFi -** Accessible restrooms are located off the church lounge. Free Wireless Internet is available in all areas except the Sanctuary. Network: 'FirstGuest', password: 'FirstUnited'.

**GIVING -** Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. You can also give one time or recurring gifts online at [www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving).



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**

*an open community united in love & justice*

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[www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

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

**MONDAY, AUGUST 28**

9:00 am CPM Meeting (Presbytery)  
 6:30 pm Waging Peace meeting  
 7:00 pm Stewardship meeting

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 29**

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
 7:00 pm Council Meeting  
 7:00 pm Capital Financing Strategy Group

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30**

6:30 pm Summer Vespers Worship

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 31**

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring: Student Registration

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1****SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2****SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

10:00 am Worship

**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 Closet, children's clothing ministry

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