

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**  
**17 SEPTEMBER 2017**



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - Matthew 11: 28-30 (NRSV)

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

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Prelude in G  
Solemn Melody*

Felix Mendelssohn  
Henry Walford Davies

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Lydia Mulkey

# GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

With grateful spirits we gather to worship God.

**God has been our dwelling place in all generations.**

**In sunshine and storm, in ease and in challenge,**

**In peace and in conflict, God has been with us.**

Let us lift our hearts and voices in praise.

## \* HYMN 8

*Praise to the Living God*

Diademata

black hymnal

## CALL TO CONFESSION

With confidence in God's abiding mercy, let us admit how we have grieved God's heart by what we have done and what we have left undone. Let us pray.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of peace, Father of mercy, Mother of all comfort, if we are to become the people you would have us be, we need your help. When we contract and confine our compassion, open our hearts and minds. When we hasten to blame and make excuses, give us courage to examine and correct ourselves. When we get stuck in unproductive ruts, kindle our imaginations. Forgive, renew, and remake us to be joyful and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. . .**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God the Creator brings us new life, forgives and redeems us. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the spirit of Christ.

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

**TIME FOR SHARING**

Britt Cox

**BLESSING OF THE TEACHERS**

Lydia Mulkey

Teachers are called to serve the church and the wider community in a variety of roles –ordained and lay, volunteer and paid. First United Church of Oak Park recognizes and affirms with deep appreciation the outstanding, faithful and dedicated commitment to the teaching task. Today we honor all dedicated teachers. We thank you, O God, for the ministry of education.

**Gentle and Loving God, through the ministry of teaching we learn about you, your creation, your trust in us to be your people, and your expectation that we will be responsible stewards of all your gifts.**

We also learn, from the Holy Spirit and from our spiritual ancestors, that we have things to learn.

**Priests, prophets, and wise counselors teach us through the Hebrew scriptures. Evangelists, apostles, and letter-writers in the Christian scriptures teach us of your love and forgiveness.**

Most of all, we learn from your living Word, Jesus the teacher.

**That story, always fresh, comes to us through teachers.**

We thank you now and offer you praise for the educational ministry of these teachers.

Help us to affirm and support them in the ministry of teaching.

**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**

Galatians 5: 13-14; 6: 2-5 (NT p. 190 – 191)

**SERMON**

Turning Nouns into Verbs

Deborah Kapp

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## TESTIMONY OF CARE

Chris Davis

## INVITATION TO ANOINTING

Britt Cox

We invite you to receive a blessing through the ritual of anointing from the Deacons at the front and back of the sanctuary. Oil is used to mark a prayer for peace, healing or blessing, whatever your need. All are welcome.

## ANOINTING

### \*HYMN 498

*Jesu, Jesu*

Chereponi

black hymnal

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deborah Kapp

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

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Thomas A. Dorsey

## \*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

Alicia Reese

**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 397

*Thank our God for Sisters, Brothers*

Pleading Savior

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**

*Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonata II*

Felix Mendelssohn

## 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

**STEPPING EAST OF AUSTIN: SEPTEMBER 23** - Sign up today for the Austin P.O.W.E.R. 5K Run/Walk. See how on the poster in the church Lounge. We are pleased to sponsor **TEAM NEW MOMS** and encourage you to participate in one of the four ways noted on the poster.

**CHICAGO SURVIVORS: FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING – SEPTEMBER 24**

Next Sunday we have the opportunity to be a community who cares for the families of victims of gun violence by contributing to Chicago Survivors. Chicago Survivors is a program that reduces violence through compassionate response. The organization provides specific services that strengthen the resiliency of families, youth and communities in the aftermath of loss due to violence.

**BOUNDARY TRAINING: SEPTEMBER 26, 6:30-9 P.M.** - All those who work with minors at First United are required to attend boundary training. If you missed it, join us in the Chapel for dinner and conversations about safety!

**PEACE VIGIL TO END GUN VIOLENCE AND PRAY FOR PEACE: SEPTEMBER 29, 7-8 P.M.** - Come and join us to stand for peace, remember the victims of gun violence and to pray for our national peace. Front steps, First United Church of Oak Park

**STOCKHOLDER'S RECEPTION: OCTOBER 1 IN CENTENNIAL HALL - FUSH** (First United Senior Highs) will be holding a thank you reception for all those who contributed financially to make their work camp trip to Koinonia possible! Come eat snacks and cake, look at pictures and talk to our youth about their experience at Koinonia Farm!

**MEN'S RETREAT - JUSTICE IN OUR LIVES: OCTOBER 21** - A men's retreat organized by the Searchers small group will be held Saturday, October 21, at BUILD Chicago, 5100 W. Harrison, Chicago. The retreat will be facilitated by remarkable men from BUILD Chicago and Rev. Gordon Stewart, the author of *Be Still - Departure from Collective Madness*. Rev. Stewart will lead the Church's October 22 Sunday service. Email [contemplatingjustice@gmail.com](mailto:contemplatingjustice@gmail.com) for more information.

**WHY NOT JOIN THE CHOIR?** Then you, too, can sound amazing! We practice on Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 8:30 and have a great time doing it. No charge for robes. Talk to a choir member or to Bill Chin if you have questions.

**DO YOU HAVE CHILD WHO LOVES TO SING?** Or are you a singer in grade three through eight? Then join the First United Children's Choir next month when it starts up! We practice in the choir room on Sundays right after worship is done, for half an hour. We sing in three or four services in the year. Get in touch with Bill Chin for more info and for the schedule.

**FIRST UNITED DISCIPLESHIP FACEBOOK GROUP** - Are you looking for a way to spiritually connect outside of Sunday morning worship? Consider joining the First United Discipleship Facebook Group, facilitated by Pastor Britt Cox and Deacon Ally Vertigan. This group is designed to be a group for spiritual formation and weekly online conversation for folks who may have difficulties regularly attending in-space small groups at First United. Y'know, cuz kids and calendars and stuff.

This group is designated as a closed group through Facebook settings in order to keep confidentiality and build community like any face-to-face small group. All who are interested in engaging in spiritual conversations online are welcome to join. You can find the group through our public Facebook page under the "groups" section. If you have any questions feel free to contact Britt Cox at [bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com)

**CUB SCOUT PACK 16 FIRST PACK MEETING OF THE YEAR!** First United Church of Oak Park charters an Intentionally Inclusive Cub Scout Pack welcoming all families. Currently we can register boys in Kindergarten through 5th grade to participate in Cub Scouts and 6th to 12th grade for Boy Scouts. For more information, please email [OakParkPack16@gmail.com](mailto:OakParkPack16@gmail.com)

# 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).



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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

9:30 am Education for All  
 9:30 am Quest Confirmation Orientation  
 11:00 am Worship  
 12:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting  
 12:30 am Strategic Mission Implementation Mtg  
 5:00 pm Youth Board Meeting  
 6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI Youth Groups

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

6:30 pm Waging Peace meeting  
 7:00 pm Housing Forward PADS Shelter  
 7:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

3:30 pm Food Pantry Distribution  
 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00 pm Food Pantry Volunteer Orientation  
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21****FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22****SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

7:30 am Food Pantry Distribution  
 10:00 am City Voices Rehearsal  
 2:30 pm Kornaus-Woodward Wedding

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

9:30 am Education for All  
 9:30 am Quest Confirmation Class  
 11:00 am Worship – Fourth Sunday Offering  
 3:00 pm PFLAG Meeting  
 6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI Youth Groups

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM**

**708-386-5215**

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)  
 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  
 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 Kloset, children's clothing ministry

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