

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
3 SEPTEMBER 2017



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"But if we only go through the motions of our religion, while closing ourselves off from its real meaning, if we do not discover that the kingdom of heaven is our only true home, the place that defines our most essential identity, we will be lost in the wilderness of decayed traditions and vulnerable to the domination of modernity's suicidal infatuation with power, the exact opposite of the Gospel message. Our greatest contribution to the world is, with God's grace, to try to be who, as Christians, we are. That will never be easy and will probably bring upon us rejection and even persecution, but it will also make us exceedingly glad"

— *The Robert Bellah Reader*

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Aria

Prelude on NETTLETON

Paul Manz

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to this moment as inheritors of hope.

For we are the children of God's promises.

We gather with thanksgiving and praise.

To be reminded that God's promises continue to be fulfilled.

In anticipation, we worship together.

* HYMN 288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

blue hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you repeatedly call us to faith, but too often we have turned from you. We let the happenings of our world slowly smother our spirits and deafen our ears to your voice. We allow technology, the cell phone that is so near right now, replace your still, quiet, yet powerful voice. For some of us, the sports stadium becomes our sanctuary. Our lack of spiritual discipline can meander our lives away from our walk with you. Forgive us for selling our birthright, born in your image, for lesser gods. Today, right now, in this moment pour your mercy and grace upon each us. Purify and empower us, we pray...

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Psalm 26

...O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.

**Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
those in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

**But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.**

**My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

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 12:9-21 (NT p. 162)

SERMON

Love in Action

Steve Pierce

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

There Are Many Ways of Sharing

NETTLETON

There are many ways of sharing, But God's Spirit gives each one.
There are different ways of caring; It's one Lord whose work is done.
God, whose gifts are overflowing, May we hear you when you call;
Keep us serving, keep us growing For the common good of all.

We've been baptized in the waters! We've been given work to do.
When you call your sons and daughters, You give gifts for serving you.
God, we join in celebration Of the talents you impart.
Bless each baptized one's vocation; Give each one a servant's heart.

All are blest by gifts you give us; Some are set apart to lead.
Give us Jesus' love within us, As we care for those in need.
Give us faith to make decisions; Give us joy to share your Word.
Give us unity and vision As we serve your church and world.

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. Today's Fourth Sunday offering benefits First United mission partner Cluster Tutoring.

OFFERTORY

*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 441
blue hymnal

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

ST. THOMAS

***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

Laudation

Gilbert M. Martin

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

As news continues from the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ are organizing responses that will help sustain life and restore hope in the coming days. Here's how you can help:

Send checks to the following or go to the denomination's web-site for on-line giving. For the United Church of Christ: Checks payable to "Hurricane Harvey" Wider Church Ministries, Financial Services - 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. For the PCUSA: "Hurricane Harvey" % Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, 15264-3700. "Thank You for Caring."

THANK YOU, STEVE, FOR BEING OUR PASTOR OF THE GAP! Please join us for cake in the lounge following worship.



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

REMEMBER: NEXT WEEK WE RESUME 11 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP!

PLEASE NOTE that the First United office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR RETURNS: BE A PART OF IT.

The choir resumes this Wednesday night! Our choir provides musical leadership for most of the services throughout the year. Choir members come from a wide variety of backgrounds, ages, and levels of musical training, but share a desire to sing at a high level. We sing at least two major works during the year, and there will be at least a couple of times when we will share food and fun—this group knows how to party! Rehearsals are Wednesdays 7:00–8:30 pm; we meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Contact Bill Chin (bill@firstunitedoakpark.com) or any choir member to get more info and to join—no audition required!

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.

FUJI PARENT MEETING

An informational meeting for parents of FUJI youth will take place on Wednesday, September 6, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

FUSH PARENT MEETING

An informational parent meeting of FUSH youth will take place in the Chapel on Wednesday, September 6, from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CARNIVAL!

The First United Nursery School (FUNS) Carnival is Saturday, September 16, from 3-5:30 p.m. in the First United parking lot.

School and Church families, neighbors and friends are all welcome to come. Pony rides, carnival games, face painting, crafts and snacks are sure to make the afternoon fun! Please look for notices posted on the Lounge bulletin boards or pre-register with Joan White or Priscilla Nied in the FUNS office on the second floor. Day-of on-site registration is also available.

STANDING WITH OUR AUSTIN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

See the September Messenger Bell to learn how you can help Team New Moms and support the Austin P.O.W.E.R. 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!

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 in lounge or call Nancy Pennington, 708-386-9195.

EVENING DIVISION 2017-18 PROGRAM YEAR WELCOME LUNCH

Join your friends and meet new ones at Evening Division's Welcome Lunch to kick off the new program year! An extraordinarily elegant lunch will be held Saturday, September 16, 12:30 p.m., in the First United Chapel. Cost is \$20. Evening Division meets monthly for a delicious catered supper and an informative or entertaining program afterwards. Call 708-383-5632 to reserve. Join us!

QUEST LOCK-IN

Saturday, September 16 – Sunday, September 17

We will kick off our Quest confirmation class with a lock-in! We will start our journey by exploring our identity, starting to build our community, and forming our faith together.

HOUSE-TO-HOME KIT DONATIONS

The Faith in Action Housing Subcommittee is partnering with Housing Forward to collect items for House-to-Home kits to relocate five families from homelessness to permanent housing. Pick up a list of needed items at sanctuary entrances or at the SignUp Genius link (<http://bit.ly/2fpnQGW>). Bring items to church from Sept. 17 through Oct. 15. Questions? Contact Charlie Morris (cmorris91120@gmail.com).

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK GATHERING DAY

September 10, 2017

Creating a Community of Care

9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Education for All

11 a.m. Worship

12 p.m. Root Beer Floats



WORSHIP THOUGHTS

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 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.



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848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

10:00 am Worship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Closed for Labor Day

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus

6:00 pm Communications Committee meeting

7:00 pm Children's Ministry meeting

7:00 pm Troop 16 Committee meeting

7:00 pm Planned Giving Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

6:30 pm FUJI Parent meeting

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm FUSH Parent meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:00 am FUNS Parent Reception

8:30 am Food Pantry iCat Review

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring - Tutor Orientation

7:00 pm Strat. Planning Financial Stab. meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 86:00 pm Dinner and a Movie: *Hidden Figures*

6:00 pm Troop 16 meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

8:30 am Strat. Planning Implementation meet.

9:00 am All-Church Clean Up

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 – GATHERING DAY

9:30 am Education for All

11:00 am Worship

12:00 pm Root Beer Floats Fellowship

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

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)

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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