

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
10 SEPTEMBER 2017



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"We don't come to the table to fight or to defend. We don't come to prove or to conquer, to draw lines in the sand or to stir up trouble. We come to the table because our hunger brings us there. We come with a need, with fragility, with an admission of our humanity. In a world that prides people on not having needs, on going longer and faster, on going without, on powering through, the table is a place of safety and rest and humanity, where we are allowed to be as fragile as we feel."

-Shauna Niequist

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Variations on "Jesus Loves Me"

J. Wayne Kerr

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Britt Cox

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOMING INTERIM PASTOR REV. DR. DEBORAH KAPP

Dear Christian Friends, baptized in the priesthood of Christ, we are all called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. Today we give thanks to God for the Ministry that God has given to the people of First United Church of Oak Park, and for the faithful service of its members and former pastors. And now we begin a new part of the journey with our interim pastor Rev. Dr. Deborah Kapp. We ask God's guidance for our ministry as we join together in prayer.

Gracious God, You have blessed and sustained us for many years and have given us this life together in the Christian community of this congregation. Be with us now, we pray, as we enter this in-between time. Comfort us as we grieve the past or look anxiously to the future. Bless us and guide us as we reflect upon our history and dream dreams about our future, so that we might be prepared for the next stage in this congregation's life. Give us courage, patience and vision; and strengthen us in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

As we begin this interim time together, we begin new relationships. I have been called as your interim pastor, to be God's servant among you during this special time, until that time when you call a new Lead Pastor. I pledge to you my commitment as a minister of the gospel among you: I will pray for you, listen to you, assist you in the tasks of this interim period, encouraging and challenging you as we move through this time together.

And we, the people of First United Church, receive you as a servant of God and pledge our partnership as we continue to use the gifts God has given us, in the many ministries of the gospel in this place: in worship, education, witness, service and stewardship.

May God bless us and lead us as we together embark on this interim journey. And may we view this time as a time of learning and growth as God's spirit instructs and prepares us for the future mission and ministry of the church in this place.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Deborah Kapp

Lead a life worthy of your calling.

We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

Lead a life filled with the gifts of your calling, gifts to be used with service and meekness.

We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

*** HYMN 84**

This is the Day

THIS IS THE DAY

black hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Deborah Kapp

When we try to sugarcoat what we have done, scripture confronts us. When we seek to romanticize why we have failed to live as faithful people, God refuses to go along, waiting for us to confess our sins. Let us join together as God's children, lifting our prayers to the One who is generous in love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of unity and love, place within each of us a spirit of hope and community. Have mercy upon us when we speak without love or act without humility. Cleanse us with the living water of your grace. Create in us willing hearts to live in patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children, growing toward maturity in faith and love. Strengthen this church, that we may be a model of ministry and unity for all the world to see.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are enabled to be kind to one another, to be tenderhearted, to forgive one another, and to be forgiven, because Jesus feeds us with the bread of new life.

Hear then the good news:

those who are in Christ are a new creation;

the old has passed away,

behold, the new has come.

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

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Come, O Holy Spirit, Come

Traditional Yoruba Melody

Come, O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come, Come, al - might - y Spir - it,
Wa wa wa E - mi - mi - mo, Wa wa wa A - lag - ba -
come, ra, Come, — wa - o come, — wa - o come. — wa - o. —

READING

Ephesians 4:1-6;11-16 (NT p. 193)

SERMON

Creating a Community of Care: Members of One Another

Britt Cox

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 417

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

BEGINNINGS

black hymnal

TESTIMONY OF CARE

Sandy Jefferson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alicia Reese

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

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

Harold A. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when, humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.

*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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Britt Cox

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Deborah Kapp

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts, people of God.
We lift them to our Lord so they might be filled with a new spirit.
Let us give thanks to God who loves us.
May our willing spirits offer praises to the One who feeds us.

Our greatest joy is to offer you our thanks and praise,
Creator, Grace-giver, Healer of our brokenness.
All that is beautiful was created for our eyes;
all that is wonderful was created for our awe;
all that is majestic was created for our praise;
all that is mystery was created for our silence.
But despite everything you have given us, we are not satisfied.
Believing life is about our appetites,
we choose the moldy bread of the world;
called to live in unity with one another,
we cling to all which divides us.
Yet you refuse to let go of us, sending your only Son, Jesus,
to call us to life in you.
We have fallen,
and you lift us up;
we have forsaken you,
and you redeem us;
we are broken,
and you make us whole.

Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices, here and now,
with the faithful of every time and place,
singing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

from *Mass of Creation*

Marty Haugen

4

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of
 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high-est. Blessed 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.

Holy are you, God of grace and tenderness,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ.

Alicia Reese

Though we look for him for all the wrong reasons,
 he holds out the bread of life to us;
 though we offer the cross to him,
 he graces us with life;
 though we thirst for more and more,
 he offers us the cup of salvation;
 though we gossip and slander one another,
 he speaks the truth in love to us;
 though we would divide each other,
 he calls us to oneness in you.

Recalling your steadfast love in Christ,
 and knowing we cannot understand your grace
 until that eternal day
 when we can know your heart,
 we take this bread and this cup,
 praising and blessing you
 for these gifts of hope and joy.
 Great is the mystery of faith.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Christ died, a seeming prisoner of death.
Christ was raised, so all might be freed in resurrection love.
Christ will return, finishing the work of God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alicia Reese

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lydia Mulkey and Deborah Kapp

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Britt Cox

Holy God of Truth,
though we come to your table as many,
may your Holy Spirit make us one body and one spirit.
As you feed us with the Bread of Life,
may we feed those who know true hunger;
as your justice illumines our hearts' darkness,
may we be a beacon to the oppressed and lost;
as you speak to us the truth in love,
may we be a voice for the powerless and forgotten;
as you restore us to wholeness,
may we bind up our shattered world.
Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Britt Cox

Communion will be served by intinction. Beginning from the middle pews, we invite everyone to come to the front or back to share in the joyful feast. As you reach the servers, take a piece of bread and then dip it in the cup. Gluten-free bread is available at a separate station in the west transept of the sanctuary.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether (verses 1 and 2)

Robert Lind

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey

**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

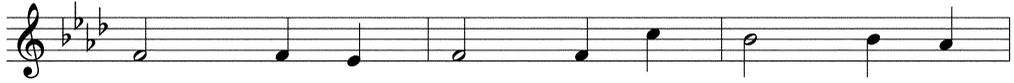
We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

Printed on the next page



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



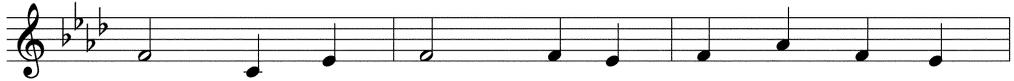
one in the Lord, We are one in the
 walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
 work side by side, We will work with each
 whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
 Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us



stored:
 land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
 pride:
 one:



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.

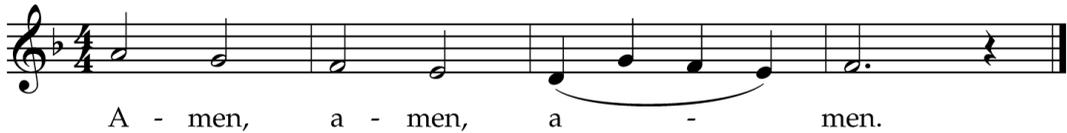
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Britt Cox

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen

Danish Amen



Traditional melody

SENDING MUSIC

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether (verse 3)

Robert Lind

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

WE WELCOME BACK THE SANCTUARY CHOIR TO REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP. The choir practices most Wednesday evenings 7 to 8:30 and meets most Sunday mornings at 10:00 to prepare for the day's service. If you'd like to experience worship with extra depth and take a leading role in our services, seek out a choir member or contact Bill Chin, bill@firstunitedoakpark.com.

THE FIRST UNITED CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL START IN OCTOBER! Bill Chin will be listening in church school classes this month to identify prospective choir members and will contact them via follow-up email. Regardless of the results of this process, if you're interested in making new friends, singing great music, and singing in four services throughout the year, get in touch with Bill. Practice time will be on Sundays in the half hour immediately following worship, in the choir room.



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

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, at 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!

FIRST UNITED FELLOWSHIP FIELD TRIPS: SAVE THE DATE FOR MOVIE IN THE PARK

September 23 7:30 p.m. Scoville Park

Grab a blanket and a picnic dinner and join us at Scoville Park under the stars! Beauty and the Beast will be playing at 8 p.m. We will meet around 7:30 and sit as a church community to watch the movie together. Once a month we will gather as a community for fellowship outside of the church building. Most of the events are free and family-friendly. We ask that you sign up ahead of time so we can know how many people to expect and if there are any changes in schedule/meet up location/weather we can communicate that information effectively. Sign up for field trips at the lounge desk or by emailing Britt Cox (bc Cox@firstunitedoakpark.com)

FIRST UNITED NURSERY SCHOOL CARNIVAL! The First United Nursery School (FUNS) Back-To-School Carnival will be held on 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. On-site registration the day of the carnival is also available. We hope to see you at this fun event!

QUEST LOCK-IN - September 16-17

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 form our faith together. If you're a Questor and need additional details, contact Alicia Reese at areese@firstunitedoakpark.com

MIDPOINT BACK TO SCHOOL POTLUCK! Join us Friday, September 29, at 6:30 p.m. on the back patio of Church for a potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share and \$10, we will provide burgers/hotdogs (better this year, promise!) grill.

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).

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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an open community united in love & justice

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 am Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 6:00 pm FUSH/FUJI BBQ

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

6:30 pm Pack 16 Meeting
 7:00 pm Building and Grounds meeting
 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee meeting
 7:00 pm Worship, Music and Arts Comm. mtg.
 7:00 pm Nursery School Parent Open House

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:30 am Housing Forward Resource Dev. mtg.
 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring New Tutor Orient.
 6:30 pm Tech Committee meeting
 7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting
 7:00 pm Youth Committee meeting
 7:00 pm Newcomers Committee meeting
 7:30 pm Faith in Action meeting
 7:30 pm Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

4:00 pm Faith in Action project meeting
 6:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

6:30 pm Cluster Tutor. Returning Tutor Orient.
 7:00 pm City Voices Auditions

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:00 pm Troop 16 Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

12:30 pm Evening Division Welcome Lunch
 3:00 pm Nursery School Carnival

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 am Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 5:00 pm Youth Board meeting
 6:00 pm FUSH/FUJI

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 Klostet, children's clothing ministry

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