

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
14 JANUARY 2018



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists, who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Transformed Nonconformist”

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Benedictus (Blessed)

Max Reger

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Deborah Kapp

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, who created us in love,

Create us anew in love as we worship you.

O Jesus Christ, who redeemed this world in love,

Reclaim our hearts as we worship you.

O Holy spirit, who moves this world toward its God-appointed end,

Move within us as we worship you.

* HYMN 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Blue hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Britt Cox and Adam Alonso

As we recall the life and witness of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we use his memorable words to lead us in confession. As much as we might agree with his judgments, to some degree we are also convicted by his words. Let us read together responsively.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Selections from “Letter from Birmingham City Jail”

I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate...who is more devoted to “order” than to justice;

Who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice...who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man’s freedom...We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people.

We must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.

I have been so greatly disappointed with the white church and its leadership... I have watched white churches stand on the sideline and merely mouth pious irrelevancies and sanctimonious trivialities.

I have watched so many churches commit themselves to a completely otherworldly religion...The contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound...It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo...But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before.

If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for [this] century. I am meeting young people every day whose disappointment with the church has risen to outright disgust.

Lord, forgive us for what we have done, and for what we have left undone.

SILENCE IS KEPT

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news. The sins of our past need not define us, nor are we condemned to repeat them. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Through him we have peace with God, and through him we can make peace with each other. 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

Britt Cox

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

APPALACHIAN FOLK MELODY



Bless the Lord, O _____ my soul; And all that is with-in me, bless God's ho-ly name!



Bless the Lord, O _____ my soul, And for - get not all God's be-ne-fits.

READING

Romans 12: 1-8

Adam Alonso

READING

Matthew 5: 11-20

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

Color Outside the Lines

Deborah Kapp

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Once to Every Man and Nation

EBENEZER

See insert

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

The Storm Is Passing Over

C. Tindley, composer; arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage, my soul, and let us journey on. Though the night is dark and I am far from home. Thanks be to God, the morning light appears. The storm is passing over, Hallelu.

*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

Britt Cox

**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 570

We Shall Overcome

WE SHALL OVERCOME

Black hymnal

*RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BLESSING

Adam Alonso

Let us go into the world in peace. In our everyday living, may we embody the faith and hope that we express in worship:

**We are moving from words to witness in our relationship with God,
From individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationship with each other,
From charity to changing structures of injustice in our relationship with the world.**

May God grant us grace to love and serve faithfully, and may God bless us with kindness, courage and peace.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen, Siyakudumisa

South African

A - men, sing prais - es to our God. A - men, sing prais - es to our God.

A - men, re - joice, a - men, re - joice. A - men, sing prais - es to our God.

SENDING MUSIC

Toccata in D minor

Max Reger

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

FIRST UNITED HAS A ZERO WASTE PROGRAM! Are you confused if your trash is recyclable, compostable or landfill-bound? Drop by the Environmental Justice Team table for a trash-sorting activity or take an online quiz, and learn more about the Zero Waste Program. Informational flyers and suggested books are also available.

Color-coded and labeled bins (Recycle/Compost/Landfill) on convenient dollies will be available during Coffee Hour.

SHARE-A-BAG/TAKE-A-BAG. Do you have extra reusable bags, or do you need one? To help promote and implement the Village 10-cent bag fee, the Environmental Justice Team is collecting clean reusable bags. Hang extra bags you would like to share on the 'bag rack' provided in the lounge, or take a bag if you need one. Bags collected will also benefit Food Pantry clients.

DR. JIM WINKLER, President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in Washington, D.C., will speak on the issues confronting Israel and Palestine, based on his recent visit. The event is at First United Methodist Church, 324 North Oak Park Avenue, today at 4 p.m. Questions: 708-383-4983.



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

NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE. The Nursery School welcomes families from the community on Tuesday evening, January 16, at 7 p.m. for information about the school and how to register. The evening begins in Centennial Hall with a presentation of philosophy, goals and curriculum, followed by classroom tours and the chance to register for September 2018.

2030 YOUNG ADULT GATHERING. Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m. at the Beer Shop, 1026 North Blvd, Oak Park. Are you a young adult at First United in your 20s or 30s? Would you like to connect with other young adults in the church?

Meet us for a drink, pizza and conversation about what young adults at First United would like to experience in both their discipleship and fellowship together. Contact Britt for questions (bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com).

THE INTERSECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: A CALL TO ACTION TEACH-IN AND CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 27, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at McCormick Theological Seminary

The Human Rights and Restorative Justice Teach-In is organized by the Chicago Metropolitan Association Justice and Witness Committee of the UCC to expand the work of peace and justice in local churches. Attend with Lydia Mulkey for a day of inspiration and fellowship. Register by January at: bit.ly/CMAJustice2018. For more info, contact Betsey Martin, 847-657-7595 or ewmartin1513@gmail.com.

BUDGET CHAT. Council approved the 2018 First United budget at its meeting in December. Want to learn more? Come to a budget chat after worship on Sunday, January 21, in Centennial Hall. You'll learn the details behind our expected receipts and expenses and be well-prepared to vote at the January 28 Congregational Meeting and luncheon. Mark your calendars now.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 28, immediately following worship. A congregational lunch will follow in Centennial Hall. Our lunch program will be interactive and child-friendly. Please plan to join us.

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 connections 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](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

9:30 am Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 6:00 pm FUJI
 7:00 pm Gargoyle Brass & Organ Rehearsal

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 7:00 pm Council meeting
 7:00 pm Nursery School open house

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

9:00 am Nursery School Board meeting
 11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
 7:00 pm Food Pantry Volunteer Orientation
 7:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Board meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

6:00 pm Troop 16 meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**

9:30 am Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Budget Chat
 2:00 pm Pederson Piano Recital
 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH
 7:00 pm Gargoyle Brass & Organ Rehearsal

CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**708-386-5215**

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)
 Britt Cox, Associate Pastor of Discipleship (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, Manager of Operations (ext. 100)
 Maureen Wheeler, Financial Consultant (ext. 106)
 Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds
 First United Church Nursery School
 Housing Forward
 Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry
 The Kid's Closet, children's clothing ministry
 Cluster Tutoring

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