

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**  
**21 JANUARY 2018**



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"But biblical, radical reconciliation wants to bring us to the point where we learn to live, not just *with* the other- because we have no choice- but *for* the other- because that *is* our choice- where the peace among us is not just the absence of violence but the active presence of justice. When reconciliation is all of these, it is salvation: being saved from the lust for power, the lure of greed, the arrogance of self-aggrandizement, and the hard-heartedness of self-gratification."

Allan A. Boesak

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

GATHERING MUSIC

*Cantabile*

César Franck

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Alicia Reese

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Alicia Reese

As we offer a welcome to stranger and friend,  
as we are embraced in their kindness,  
**we choose to be people of life and blessing.**  
As we serve others in God's name,  
as we receive blessings from those we do not know,  
**we choose to walk in God's way.**  
As we forgive those who have hurt us,  
as we reach out to those we have harmed,  
**we choose to be reconciled to our siblings in faith.**

\* HYMN 164

*Arise, Your Light Is Come*

FESTAL SONG

Black hymnal

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Deborah Kapp

With every choice we make, we show how faithful we are to God's hopes for us. Yet despite the mistakes we make, the missteps we take, God remains forgiving and gracious. Let us come to our God, speaking honestly about our lives as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**How often we make the wrong choices, God of our lives! We look at others through the prism of lust, distorting who they really are. We let our "mad" feed us with bitterness and hurt. We toss about harmful words like so many snowballs on a winter's day. We would rather insult those around us, than to lift them up.**

Have mercy on us, God who is everywhere. May we set aside our quarrelling natures to be united in common worship, common service, and a common purpose, as we follow Jesus Christ.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ came, so we might be healed by God's tender touch. Christ came, so we might be reconciled to one another.

Thanks be to God! As risky, as hard as it may be, we will choose to be God's people. Amen.

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

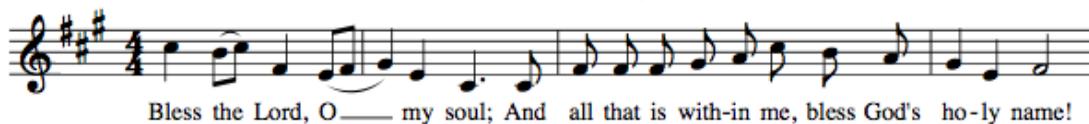
### TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

### SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

APPALACHIAN FOLK MELODY



### READING

Matthew 5:21-37 (NT p. 4-5)

### SERMON

Reconcile Us

Britt Cox

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*HYMN #174

*Hear the Voice of God, So Tender*

BEACH SPRING

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***Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*

Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives: to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen.

**\*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**

Deborah Kapp

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 451***Be Now My Vision*

SLANE

Black hymnal

**\*RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

**West: We are moving from words to witness in our relationship with God,**

**Center: From individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationship with each other,**

**East: 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.

**All: May it be so. Amen.**

**\*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***Trumpet Tune*

David German

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

**BUDGET CHAT.** Council approved the 2018 First United budget at its meeting in December. Want to learn more? Come to a budget chat today after worship 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.

**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.



**PLEASE RECYCLE** your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

Demanding Love- Matthew 5:38-48

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCH - NEXT SUNDAY**

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. Please plan to join us. The program will be interactive and intergenerational. In preparation for it, we ask that you consider the following 3 questions, and then use your smart phones, tablets, or other digital devices to take a picture that answers one or more of the questions. Bring your digital photo to the meeting:

- What about First United makes you come alive?
- What about First United do you want to share with others?
- What real potential do you see at First United?
- Feel free to use your imaginations. See you next week!

## EVENTS AND UPDATES - CONTINUED

### **TRET FURE PERFORMS FOLK CONCERT, JANUARY 22**

Folk musician Tret Fure will perform a free concert on Monday, Jan. 22, at 7:00 pm at the Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street. In the early 80s, she moved to the independent side of the industry, discovering the blossoming genre known as women's music. In 2009, Tret was voted "Pride in the Arts Favorite Female/Lesbian Musician."

### **PINTS FOR PASTA! DONATE BLOOD JAN. 23 AND HELP SAVE A LIFE!**

Donate blood on Tuesday, Jan. 23, between Noon and 4 p.m. in the Veterans room of the Oak Park Public Library -- and receive a Free bowl of pasta from Noodles & Company (up to \$13 value). Visit [www.heartlandbc.org](http://www.heartlandbc.org) or call 1-800-786-4483 to schedule your appointment. Bring a photo ID and drink plenty of fluids before your appointment. The extremely cold temperatures have cut donations -- there is a severe shortage of blood in Chicago, according to Heartland Blood Centers.

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31- YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND HUNGER EDUCATION (HWW)**

We are gathering a group of people interested in increasing youth involvement and hunger education efforts for the 35th Hunger Walkathon West (HWW). The first meeting is Wednesday, January 31st at 7PM in the Conference Room. Please join us as we work together to help youth (and adults) understand and act to decrease hunger. RSVP [jdespotes@gmail.com](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com)

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31- WHAT MIGHT YOU DO ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?**

Green Community Connections is presenting "Resilient Communities Forum, an all-hands-on-deck conversation about community, climate, and collective impact!!" Local residents who attended the Bonn Climate Conference in November, plus Oak Park and River Forest mayors, will lead a panel discussion, followed by identification of key local action opportunities. January 31, Nineteenth Century Club. Registration 6:30 pm, Forum 7:00 pm. RSVP [tinyurl/resilientforum](http://tinyurl/resilientforum).

### **LEAVING A LEGACY**

Please consider making a legacy gift to First United through your will or by designating the church as a beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance, or pension plan. When you make such a gift, please let the church know. We want to thank you and add you to our list of Kindred Spirits. Questions? Contact Gene or Ann Armstrong ([geneann1113@yahoo.com](mailto:geneann1113@yahoo.com) or 708-657-4484) or any of the pastors.

# 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](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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*an open community united in love & justice*

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

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

**SUNDAY, JAN 21**

9:30 am Education for All  
 9:30 am Quest Confirmation Class  
 11:00 am Worship  
 12:00 pm Budget Chat  
 12:00 pm Evening Division Board Mtg  
 2:00 pm Pederson Piano Recital  
 6:00 pm FUSH & FUJI  
 7:00 pm Gargoyle Brass & Organ Rehearsal

**MONDAY, JAN 22**

9:00 am CPM Training (Presbytery)  
 6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness Ministry  
 7:00 pm Hunger Walkathon West team mtg  
 7:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting  
 7:00 pm Buildings & Grounds meeting  
 7:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter

**TUESDAY, JAN 23**

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 24**

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
 3:30 am Food Pantry Distribution

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 24 - CONTINUED**

7:00 pm Housing Subcommittee mtg  
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, JAN 25**

8:00 am Food Pantry NowPow  
 9:00 am OWL Facilitator Training  
 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

**FRIDAY, JAN 26**

9:00 am OWL Facilitator Training

**SATURDAY, JAN 27**

9:00 am Food Pantry Distribution  
 9:00 am OWL Facilitator Training  
 10:00 am City Voices Rehearsal

**SUNDAY, JAN 28**

9:30 am Education for All  
 11:00 am Worship – Fourth Sunday Offering  
 12:00 pm Congregational Meeting & Luncheon  
 2:00 pm Gargoyle Brass & Organ Rehearsal  
 3:00 pm PFLAG mtg

**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 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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