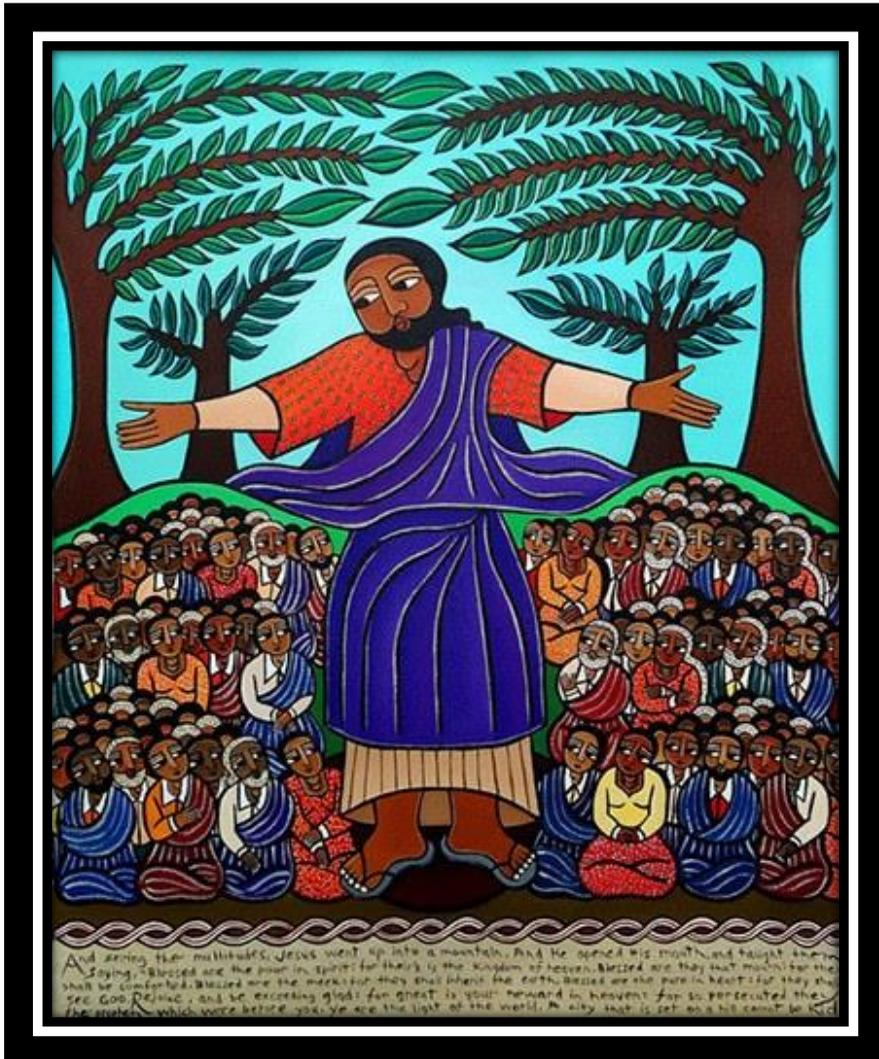


# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

## 28 JANUARY 2018



*An open community united in love and justice*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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

**GATHERING MUSIC** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; Be Thou My Vision; Aria*

Paul Manz

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER** Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deborah Kapp

The Kin-dom of God is coming because...

East: **Somewhere, someone is kind when others are unkind;**

West: **Somewhere, someone shares with another in need;**

East: **Somewhere, someone refuses to hate, while others hate;**

West: **Somewhere, someone is patient—and waits in love;**

East: **Somewhere, someone returns good for evil;**

West: **Somewhere, someone serves another, in love;**

East: **Somewhere, someone is calm in a storm;**

West: **Somewhere, someone is loving their enemies.**

All: **Is that someone you?**

### \* HYMN

*Up On A Mountaintop*

SLANE

Up on a mountaintop, Jesus sat down,

Teaching the people who gathered around:

Look for the blessings that God kindly brings;

God's loving kingdom is changing all things.

You are the salt and you're also the light.

Flavor God's world, with your faith shining bright.

Know that I've come here, God's word to fulfill.

Keep the commandments and follow them well.

Let go of anger, for it is a sin.

It will destroy you, both outside and in.

Even your thinking can lead you astray;

Whatever tempts you, just throw it away.

If any hurt you, then you may resist,

But not with hatred or weapon or fist.

God's way is stronger than any you face;

Stand up and love them! And give them God's grace.  
Love those who hate you and pray for them, too.  
God's mercy reaches out far beyond you.  
Seek, as God's people, God's wholeness each day  
So you can witness to God's perfect way.

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Britt Cox

It isn't easy to love your enemy. It isn't easy to turn the other cheek. It isn't easy to pray for those who hurt you. And yet Jesus calls us, and we must answer. Let us pray.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have heard the teachings of Jesus many times, but we confess that sometimes we think they are impractical. We let anger take hold of us. We fail to keep our commitments to you and to others. We lack courage to follow in the way of Jesus. Change our hearts as we meditate on your love.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news that God's transforming love is for you.  
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

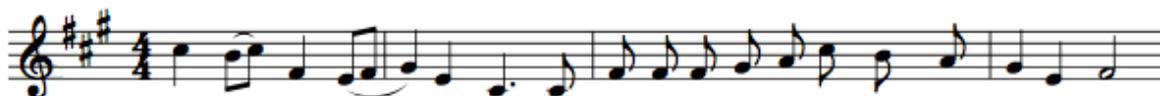
#### TIME FOR SHARING

Deborah Kapp

#### 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

Matthew 5:38-48 (NT p. 5)

#### SERMON

Demanding Love

Lydia Mulkey

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* HYMN

*For Everyone Born*

FOR EVERYONE BORN

E A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,  
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E A2 Bsus4 B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F#m7 E/G# A2 Bsus4

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
 with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er,  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E Bsus4

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver -  
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's  
 for young and for old, the right to be -  
 for just and un - just, a new way to be  
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be

Refrain

E Bsus4 B E E/G#

head.  
fair.  
long.  
live.  
free.

And God will de-light when we are cre-

A2 Bsus4 E E/G# A2 Bsus4 B

a-tors of jus-tice and joy, com-pas-sion and peace: yes,

C#m7 E/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

Bsus4 B E Bsus4 B *last time*  
E

jus-tice and joy.

## PLANNED GIVING APPRECIATION

Kelly Pollock

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Britt Cox

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

*I Will Not Leave You Comfortless*

Everett Titcomb

I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you yet again: Alleluia,  
And your heart shall be joyful, Alleluia.

## \*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 76

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

THE ASH GROVE

black hymnal

### \*RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BLESSING

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**

*Laudation*

Gilbert M. Martin

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held today, immediately following worship, in the sanctuary. After the meeting we will enjoy lunch together in Centennial Hall. If you have not already taken a photo that represents something that makes you come alive at First United, something you want to share, or something that represents our potential, stop and take a picture on your way to lunch. We look forward to our time together.

Photos can also be emailed to the church at [photos@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:photos@firstunitedoakpark.com). Please identify the photo in the subject line as "alive," "share," or "potential." Thanks!



**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

**TRANSITIONS CONVERSATIONS.** Sundays, February 11 and 18. In accordance with recommendations made by the Action Planning Team last spring, we are holding two conversations in February to discuss some of the more difficult transitions we have experienced in the last few years. Both conversations will be held in Centennial Hall following worship, and lunch will be served. Nursery and child care will be provided. On February 11 we will focus on the events of spring 2017 that led to Rev. Cole's departure. On February 18 we will focus on the other staff departures that occurred in 2016 and 2017. One goal of both conversations is to allow people to say what they need to say. A second equally important goal is to examine these events with an eye to understanding ourselves better as a congregation: our expectations about how we treat each other and get things done, our values, and the challenges and uncomfortable realities that continue to face us. Finally, we want also to consider what might help us move forward as a congregation. An eblast sent Friday, January 26 to all members of the congregation explains this more clearly. Please do not hesitate to speak with Deborah Kapp about this if you have questions or concerns.

**HUNGER WALKATHON WEST - YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND HUNGER EDUCATION.** We are gathering a group of people interested in increasing youth involvement and hunger education efforts for the 35th Hunger Walkathon West. The first meeting is Wednesday, January 31 at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room. Please join us as we work together to help youth (and adults) understand and act to decrease hunger. RSVP to Joanne Despotes, [jdespotes@gmail.com](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com)

**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 p.m., Forum 7:00 p.m. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/resilientforum](http://tinyurl.com/resilientforum).

### **COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS ANNUAL MEETING**

January 29, Oak Park Temple, 1235 Harlem Ave., Oak Park. Join with the Community of Congregations to fellowship and discuss what it means to lift our moral voices in the current political environment. Mony Ruiz Velasco, CEO PASO, immigration attorney organizing on behalf of vulnerable communities is featured. Dinner 6:30 p.m., Program 7:30, Business Meeting 8:30. RSVP to Katie Avalos [oprffcoc@gmail.com](mailto:oprffcoc@gmail.com). Optional gift of \$15 for dinner.

### **"SHAKESPEARE VALENTINES" MUSIC AT FIRST CONCERT**

The Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble, with guest artists The Oriana Singers and City Voices, will present the world premiere of British-born composer Peter Meechan's "Love Songs (Shakespeare)" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 right here at First United!

Tickets are available at [gargoylebrass.com](http://gargoylebrass.com) for \$20 adult general admission; \$15 seniors 55 and older; free for ages 17 and younger. You'll hear beautiful music set to some of Shakespeare's greatest works on love--a great evening with beautiful brass, organ and voice.

## **LENT AT FIRST UNITED: HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY**

### **LENTEN BOOK GROUPS: VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

During the Season of Lent, book groups will be gathering to read one of two books: "Dare We Speak of Hope?" by Allan A. Boesak and "Accidental Saints," by Nadia Bolz-Weber. You may sign up online at <http://bit.do/lentgroups> or on the sign-up sheet at the Lounge desk. Books are available locally at Magic Tree Bookstore. Groups will begin meeting the week of February 18 and meet for five weeks. Contact Britt Cox if you have questions or need help signing up, [bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com).

### **LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS**

#### **DEACONS AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FOR PRAYER**

Throughout Lent, our sanctuary will be filled with interactive prayer stations. Engage them as many times as you would like between February 14 and March 31. The stations make up a prayer journey that can be taken alone, with a friend or with your family. This journey is open to all ages and stages of faith every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Deacons will be available in the sanctuary for prayer. Blessings on your journey through Lent.

# 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).



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

*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://www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29**

6:30 pm Pack 16 Meeting  
 7:00 pm Personnel committee meeting  
 7:00 pm Oriana Singers rehearsal

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30**

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31**

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
 7:00 pm Hunger Walkathon West meeting

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

9:00 am Endowment committee meeting  
 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring  
 7:00 pm City Voices rehearsal

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 16

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

10:00 am PFLAG of Northern Illinois  
 10:00 am SOPRF Chorus Rehearsal

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

9:30 am Education for All  
 11:00 am Worship  
 2:00 pm Gargoyle Brass and Organ Rehearsal  
 6:00 pm SOPRF Chorus Rehearsal  
 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

**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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 773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org