

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK 10 JUNE 2018



Protestors gather outside Baird & Warner Real Estate in Oak Park.  
circa 1968

*An open community united in love and justice*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

A church that doesn't provoke any crisis,  
a Gospel that doesn't unsettle,  
a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin,  
a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society around it,  
what Gospel is that?

Very nice, pious considerations that don't bother anyone;  
that's the way many would like preaching to be.

Yet does such a Gospel light the world we live in?  
The Gospel of Christ is courageous; it is the "good news" of him  
who came to transform and take away the world's sins.

- Oscar Romero

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

GATHERING MUSIC

*Intermezzo Op. 118, No. 2*

Johannes Brahms

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Deborah Kapp

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are those who mourn,  
**for they will be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek,  
**for they will inherit the earth.**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
**for they will be filled.**

Blessed are the merciful,  
**for they will receive mercy.**

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
**for they will see God.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**for they will be called children of God.**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness; sake,  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blue hymnal

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Alicia Reesse

As we remember the struggle for fair housing in Oak Park, we come face to face with the reality that, sometimes, good people are caught in systems and processes that perpetrate evil on our behalf. Let us turn to God in prayer with the confidence of Paul, who assures us that nothing in the universe – not death or life or principalities or powers – can separate us from the redemptive and transforming love of Christ our Lord. Let us pray:

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we have afflicted others, whether by our own power  
or by our silent support of systems that oppress, enslave, and crush,  
**awaken us to injustice and change us, Lord.**

When we have perplexed others  
and purposely confused them for our own gain or driven them to despair,  
**awaken us to injustice and change us, Lord.**

When we have persecuted others, casting them out of our community,  
leaving them forsaken and alone,  
**awaken us to injustice and change us, Lord.**

When we have struck down others,  
deferring their dreams and hopes until they are destroyed,  
**awaken us to injustice and change us, Lord.**

Though we are imperfect disciples, we carry in our bodies the death of Jesus  
so that the life of Jesus may be made visible;  
**transform us, Lord, and fashion us to do your will.**

With the power that belongs only to you, make us into your treasure;  
**transform us, Lord, and fashion us to do your will.**

We are the clay, and you are the potter. We are the work of your hands;  
**transform us, Lord, and fashion us to do your will.**

Do not be exceedingly angry, and do not remember our iniquity forever.  
**Transform us, Lord, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

### ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory,  
or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love.

God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon, peace, and possibility.

**Thanks be to God.**



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 181

*You Are Salt for the Earth, O People*

BRING FORTH

Black hymnal

\*CHARGE

Lydia Mulkey

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

*Waltz in A-Flat, Op. 39, No. 15*

Johannes Brahms

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

**OUR PANEL THIS MORNING** includes four people who were deeply involved in the struggle for fair housing in Oak Park:

**Roberta “Bobbie” Raymond** was founder of the Oak Park Housing Center in 1972. She based the idea for forming a housing center on similar housing centers established in Shaker Heights, OH, and University City, MO, both suburban communities on the edge of big cities. The first Oak Park Housing Center office was located in First Congregational Church.

**Sherlynn Reid** has been a member of First Congregational Church (now First United) since 1969. She was named to the Village Community Relations staff working for Kris Ronnow (a long-time First United participant), first to hold that position. In 1973, Sherlynn became manager. In her job, she received complaints about fair housing and equal opportunity abuses and worked to resolve them. Sherlynn worked with the schools, the banks, and the Board of Realtors to explain what they needed to do to comply with the laws.

**Mac Robinet** and Harriette Robinet were moving from Washington, D.C. and wanted to buy a home in Oak Park in 1965. Because of the color of their skin, they were not allowed into available houses to look at them. Architect Bob Bell went to open houses and drew up floor plans for the Robinets. Don and Joyce Beisswenger took matters into their own hands and bought the house on South Elmwood Avenue where the Robinets still live.

**Lois Hall Merrill** and her husband Tom Hall were married at First Presbyterian Church in 1961. They moved to Oak Park in 1968. The Women’s Guild of the church was very progressive, looking at issues outside of Oak Park. Lois became a licensed realtor in 1974, the same year that the Farmer’s Market was established and FLW Home and Studio purchased. She recalls Kris Ronnow coming to the Board of Realtors and giving a “hellfire” sermon about fair housing.

We are honored to have each of these people with us today, and we are grateful for their faithful witness in Oak Park. Thanks to Debby Preiser and the Centennial Committee for organizing the panel and encouraging us to celebrate this part of our history.



**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** will honor its splendid 105-year history on Thursday, June 14 with a celebratory dinner and, with regret, close this venerable organization. Since 1913, Evening Division has provided community here while supporting charities both locally and around the world. While we are sorry to take this step, we are glad to use Evening Division's funds to restore the chapel's southwest stained-glass window. Please join us for a grand dinner! Thursday, June 14, 6:00 p.m., in the chapel. Cost is \$15. Call 708-383-5632 to reserve a place.

**FUSH GOES TO PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON!** FUSH will be leaving on June 24 to serve in the Kitsap Community. We will be staying at the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference Camp, Pilgrim Firs, attending Camp Common Fire.

**FUSH WORK CAMP MEETING** – Next Sunday, June 17, 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Chapel, for the FUSH youth attending this summer's work camp trip to Port Orchard, WA and their parents. We will give more information and answer as many questions as we can!

**CHICAGO SUMMER SINGS** will not be held this summer due the building maintenance that is taking place. We will be back next summer but are sorry to miss these lovely evenings. We hope that everyone will have a wonderful summer and keep singing anyway!

**"WHO'S THAT???"** – A Photo Contest Fundraiser for the FUNS Scholarship Fund. In a nutshell: You submit an old photo of yourself (high school graduation/prom/wedding/etc.) by Sunday, June 24. Cost to submit is \$1. We enlarge and post it in the lounge. Everyone else guesses who is in the photos. Cost for a guessing sheet is \$5. Proceeds go to the First United Nursery School. **COMPLETE DETAILS** are on the large poster in the lounge, or call 708-848-1762. Prizes will be awarded for the most correct identifications!

**THIRD SATURDAY BOOK GROUP** is a book discussion for interested church members that is meeting at the church. The first meeting will be Saturday, June 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Books to be read will be determined by the group at each meeting. Contact: Joanne Despotes at [jdespotes@gmail.com](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377 for information.

**BETTER ANGELS SKILLS WORKSHOPS** are designed to improve our skills in reaching across the partisan divide. A workshop will be held on June 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Oak Park Public Library. Better Angels is a bipartisan movement to unify our divided nation. We're building new ways to talk to one another, participate in public life, and influence the direction of the nation. No fee, but advance registration is required. To register, send an email to [michael.mcgillicuddy@gmail.com](mailto:michael.mcgillicuddy@gmail.com) or call 312.925.3840. For more information, go to [www.better-angels.org](http://www.better-angels.org)

**WHAT CAN ONE DO TO STEM GUN VIOLENCE?** Stop by the table in the lounge to stay up-to-date on ways to keep taking action to stem gun violence. Also, sign up for action alerts.

# 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 Deborah Kapp at 708.386.5215 or [dkapp@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:dkapp@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 of the building. 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).

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JUNE 10

- 8:30 am Nominating Committee  
Orientation  
9:00 am New Member Class  
9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
10:00 am Worship  
with Race & Housing Panel  
11:00 am All Church Reception

### MONDAY, JUNE 11

- 7:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts  
Committee meeting

### TUESDAY, JUNE 12

- 12:00 pm Ministry Partners planning  
meeting  
2:00 pm Outing to DeSable Museum  
7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Newcomers meeting  
7:30 pm Faith in Action meeting

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

### THURSDAY, JUNE 14

- 6:00 pm Evening Division Celebration

### FRIDAY, JUNE 15

### SATURDAY, JUNE 16

- 8:00 am Third Saturday Book Group

### SUNDAY, JUNE 17

- 9:00 am New Member Class  
9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
10:00 am Worship  
with Race & Housing Panel  
11:15 am FUSH Work Camp Orientation

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM  
708.386.5215**

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)  
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. 102)  
Dennis Cobb, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100)  
Maureen Wheeler, Financial Consultant (ext. 106)  
Susan Samek, Financial Assistant (ext. 109)  
Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds  
First United Church Nursery School  
Housing Forward  
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry  
The Kid's Kloset, children's clothing ministry  
Cluster Tutoring  
Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
Samaritan Counseling Center

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773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org  
708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org  
847-446-6955, www.northshoresamaritan.org



Protestors on the streets of Oak Park, seeking fair housing laws.  
circa 1968



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