

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**  
**24 JUNE 2018**



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul  
the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.”

—Teresa of Avila

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

GATHERING MUSIC

*Wayfaring Stranger*  
Julian Chin, piano

Traditional American Hymn

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Charles Morris

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us worship God. Let us pray:

**Hidden God, we worship you.**

By ourselves, we could not know you;

no human wisdom can discover you,

no argument lead to you,

no enterprise reveal you;

in the wealth of its knowledge the world fails to find you.

**But you came to search for us in the frailty of a human life;**

**you trusted yourself to the fragile faith of wavering disciples.**

We praise you that in our very weakness we can know you;

**that stumbling blocks become stepping stones,**

**and the foolishness of the cross the very truth that quickens us to life.**

\*HYMN 449

*Softly and Tenderly*

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

Black hymnal

### CALL TO PRAYER

With trust in God's tender mercies, known to us in Christ our Lord, let us pray.

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

We confess, O God, that we breathe the proud spirit of the world, the spirit which scorns the way of weakness, boasts of its cleverness, clings to knowledge as a means of power, and seeks to prove its worth by belittling others.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Hidden God, your wisdom unsettles our values and compels our love. Fill us with the desire to search for your truth, that being content to be fools for Christ's sake, we may transform the world. Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Jesus died and rose again for you. In humble penitence, accept his pardon and receive his peace. Amen.

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

## TIME FOR SHARING

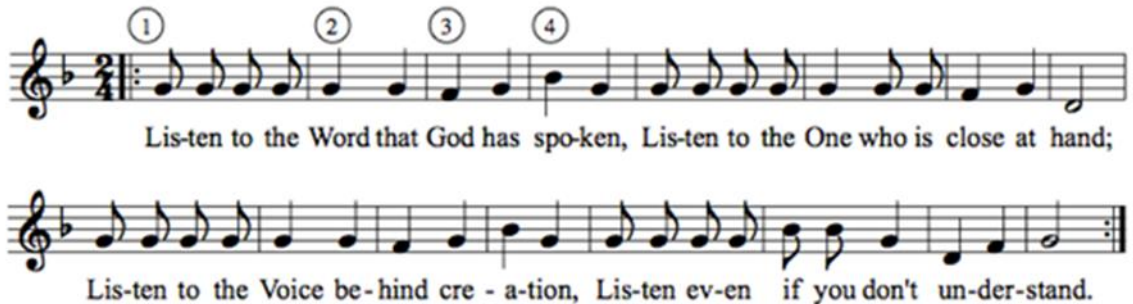
Jojo Desir

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

## SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Listen to the Word*

Iona Community



Lis-ten to the Word that God has spo-ken, Lis-ten to the One who is close at hand;  
Lis-ten to the Voice be-hind cre - a-tion, Lis-ten ev-en if you don't un-der-stand.

## GOSPEL READING

John 2: 1-12, NT p. 93

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Crowder

## SERMON

Why Does This Concern You?

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## \*HYMN 547

*Amazing Grace*

AMAZING GRACE

Black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Charlie Morris

OFFERTORY

*God Bless the Child*  
Julian Chin, piano

Herzog/Holiday

\*DOXOLOGY

TALLIS' CANON

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

Charlie Morris and Laurie Jolicoeur

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 478

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Black hymnal

\*CHARGE

\*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

*Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses*  
Julian Chin, piano

Traditional

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

**TODAY WE WELCOME** the Rev. Dr. Stephanie Crowder to our pulpit. Dr. Crowder is a New Testament scholar, whose work engages the intersection of pop culture and the biblical witness. She is a blogger for *The Huffington Post*, where she has written many pieces ranging from Ferguson to two-stepping. Her book, *When Momma Speaks: The Bible Through African-American Motherhood*, examines mother characters in the Bible through Womanist lenses. Dr. Crowder is the newly elected Academic Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Chicago Theological Seminary.

**WHERE ARE OUR PASTORS?** Lydia Mulkey and Alicia Reese are in Port Orchard, Washington this morning, leading and supporting our FUSH work camp. Deborah Kapp is on vacation. We are grateful to Charles Morris, Laurie Jolicoeur, and Jojo Desir for their leadership in today's worship.

**THANKS TO JULIAN CHIN** for filling in as musician of the day. Bill Chin is out of town and Michael Surratt is helping to lead the Chicago Gay Pride parade with our Scouts for Equality. Julian is on summer break from Chicago High School for the Arts and the Merit School of Music. He will be preparing original music for this year's annual *Sing We Joyous* concerts over the summer.

**TODAY'S FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING** will be donated to Cluster Tutoring. This program, which provides free tutoring to over 100 children, mostly from the Austin neighborhood, meets in our building on Thursday nights during the school year, as well as other times for their summer program. Thank you for your support of this program through volunteer time, financial gifts, prayer, and more.

**HOSPITALITY IN WORSHIP** – It takes many hands and hearts to make our worship pleasing in the sight of God. We are grateful to our Worship and Music leaders and to those who provide Hospitality through various ministries. If you think one or more of these Hospitality Ministries would be a fit for you, please contact Joanne Despotes at [jdespotes@gmail.com](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377. This week we thank Lead Usher Bob Larson; Greeters: Rose Buckner, Bonnie Mize & Susan Saliny; Sanctuary Guild members Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher. We ask forgiveness for any omissions.



**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

**ANNUAL FAMILY CAMPING EXTRAVAGANZA** at Tower Hill, MI It's SUMMERTIME and time for First United Family Camping - August 9 to 13. Pitch a tent or camper. Things to do: hike, bike, swim, relax, eat good food, make new friends, connect with old friends. Questions- ask past participants: Teri Omert, Cerniglia Family. More info: <http://il-outdoorministries.org/tower-hill.html>. Sign up in the church lounge. \$7.00 per day per person. No pets.

**FROM THE COUNCIL LEADERS:** Each year, First United, as part of its operating budget, makes a per capita payment to the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ, the denominations in which the church holds membership. Each member is asked to consider making an extra gift to First United in the amount of that per capita payment, which is \$33.61 for each confirmed member. Details can be found in the letter sent out this past week and in the July Messenger Bell, which will be available soon.

**POETRY WRITING INVITATION** As part of our Centennial Celebration, poets are invited to create a poem that captures reflections on First United (past, present or future) or church experience in general. We hope to receive original poetry from people of all ages. Your poem might appear in various places: Centennial Poetry booklet, liturgy in worship, Evotionals, posters, etc. Deadline for receipt of poems is July 25. Please email your poem to Marcia Ashton, [marciaashton@msn.com](mailto:marciaashton@msn.com). Questions? Contact Marcia Ashton or Pastor Lydia Mulkey, [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

**FIRST UNITED NURSERY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER PHOTO CONTEST!** Prizes awarded! Bewilderment guaranteed! Bring a photo of yourself in all your youthful glory (high school graduation, wedding, etc.) and see how many people can identify you back when you were 45 pounds lighter and didn't have so many scowl lines. Details on the large poster in the lounge. The **First United Nursery School Scholarship Fund** has made and continues to make a huge difference in the lives of children and parents here. Please give us your support!

# 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).



**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://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JUNE 24

FUSH Work Camp

9:30 am Technology Help Desk

10:00 am Summer Jazz Worship  
and Fourth Sunday Offering

3:00 pm PFLAG

4:00 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor

### MONDAY, JUNE 25

FUSH Work Camp

9:00 am CPM Meeting (presbytery)

6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness Ministry

7:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting

### TUESDAY, JUNE 26

FUSH Work Camp

6:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Summer Reading

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

FUSH Work Camp

### THURSDAY, JUNE 28

FUSH Work Camp

6:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Summer Reading

### FRIDAY, JUNE 29

FUSH Work Camp

### SATURDAY, JUNE 30

FUSH Work Camp

8:00 am Third Saturday Book Group

### SUNDAY, JULY 1

9:30 am Technology Help Desk

10:00 am Summer Worship

Youth Sunday

**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

dkapp@firstunitedoakpark.com

lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com

areese@firstunitedoakpark.com

bill@firstunitedoakpark.com

msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com

aswanson@firstunitedoakpark.com

dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.com

mwheel@firstunitedoakpark.com

ssamek@firstunitedoakpark.com

kliesse@firstunitedoakpark.com

708-848-4910, [www.firstunitedschool.com](http://www.firstunitedschool.com)

708-338-1724, [www.housingforward.org](http://www.housingforward.org)

708-386-1324, [www.oprffoodpantry.org](http://www.oprffoodpantry.org)

[susanzaruba@gmail.com](mailto:susanzaruba@gmail.com)

773-378-5530, [www.clustertutoring.org](http://www.clustertutoring.org)

708-406-9597, [www.promusicayouthchorus.org](http://www.promusicayouthchorus.org)

847-446-6955, [www.northshoresamaritan.org](http://www.northshoresamaritan.org)