

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
12 AUGUST 2018



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
The night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
—Psalm 139: 7-12

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Clair de lune

Claude Debussy

WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Alicia Reese

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***OPENING SONG**

Halle, Halle, Halle

HALLE HALLE

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le -

lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Please join me in our call to worship...

Eternal God, you are the power behind all things:

behind the energy of the storm, behind the heat of a million suns.

Eternal God, you are the power behind all minds:

behind the ability to think and reason, behind all understandings of the truth.

Eternal God, you are the power behind the cross of Christ,

behind the weakness, the suffering, and the death, behind unconquerable love.

Eternal God, we worship and adore you.

* HYMN 12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

Black hymnal

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Lydia Mulkey

Confident in God's goodness and mercy, let us join our hearts in prayers for integrity and wholeness. Let us pray:

Show us the way to fullness of life, Lord Jesus;

that our hearts might be filled with joy, hope, and peace, we pray;

that we might respond to opportunities, we pray;

that we might be strengthened to face challenges, we pray;

that we might become the persons we are called to be, we pray;

that we might learn to respect our sisters and brothers, we pray;

that we might see the needs of others and give help, we pray.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.

The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.

Be assured that God is with us, even now, accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG

Al Pickard

HYMN

We Gather Together

KREMSER

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!
Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Deborah Kapp

SCRIPTURE READING

I Kings 19:1-8, OT p. 326

SERMON

Fight or Flight

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 468

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

CRIMOND

Black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY

You Are Mine

David Haas, arr. Stan McDaniel

I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.
I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light, come and rest in me.
Do not be afraid, I am with you, I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.
I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
The lame will all run free, and all will know my name.
Do not be afraid, I am with you, I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.
I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
Embracing all your pain, stand up, now walk and live!

*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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey

**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 471

What a Covenant

LEANING

Black hymnal

OUR LIFE TOGETHER


Deborah Kapp

CHARGE AND 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

Polonaise Op. 40, No. 1

Frederic Chopin

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED



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

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS: Please join us today and the next two Sundays in August, following morning worship, for discussions about our congregation's identity, purpose, mission, and our future leadership needs. These structured discussions, which will inform the work of the PNC, will be held in the church lounge from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 pm.

Today: Who are we? A theological discussion.

August 19: Who is my neighbor? A discussion of demographics, diversity, and community needs.

August 26 (the conversation will begin after the birthday party): What are some of the challenges we face as a congregation, and what does that imply about the leadership we need?

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.

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. This week we thank Lead Usher Carl Nauert; Greeters: Cynthia Collazo, Clara Kearley, and Anne Paluck; Sanctuary Guild members Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher. We ask forgiveness for any omissions. If you think one or more of these Hospitality Ministries would be a fit for you, please contact Joanne Despotes at jdespotes@gmail.com or 708-209-1377.

COVER ART - "Elijah Fed By the Raven" by Sadao Watanabe, 1979.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

SUMMER VESPERS concludes Wednesday night, August 15, from 6:30 – 7:30. We will worship outside around the labyrinth. Bring a lawn chair, a picnic, and yourselves. The service will include reflections by members, the opportunity to learn and engage a spiritual practice, song, and prayer. We hope to see you there.

PRIME TIMER ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC – Prime Timers will gather at the Giles' home, 1035 N Kenilworth, on August 18 at 5:00 p.m. for our annual picnic for those 60+. RSVP to Anna Sadowski at annahsadowski@gmail.com and tell her what you can bring (along with \$5 and a chair!) Bring memories of your early church days and stories of how you came to be at First United!

90+ BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION! There will be a 90th + Birthday Party held in Centennial Hall on Sunday, August 26th immediately following worship. Please come and help us celebrate all of those who are turning 90 or older with delicious cake and fellowship.

EARLY RISERS NEEDED! Volunteers are needed for 3rd and 5th Tuesday mornings (5:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.) for the Housing Forward (formerly PADS) Emergency Shelter. This is a great hands-on opportunity to give back by spending a couple of hours a month. Shifts begin in mid-September. Please contact Matt Kemper at mattkemper1227@gmail.com or 312-320-1282.

NEXT SUNDAY – WORSHIP ON THE CHURCH LAWN!



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 Lydia Mulkey at 708.386.5215 or lmulkey@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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

9:30 am Technology Help Desk
10:00 am Summer Worship in the Lounge
11:30 am Congregational Conversations

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program
7:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program
7:00 pm Newcomers Committee meeting
7:30 pm Faith in Action meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

6:30 pm Summer Vespers worship
6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program
7:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Board meeting
7:00 pm Governance Task Force meeting

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

8:00 am Third Saturday Book Group
5:00 pm Prime Time Summer Picnic
6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

9:30 am Technology Help Desk
10:00 am Summer Worship Outside Blessings Sunday!
11:00 am Boundary Training
11:30 am Congregational Conversations
3:30 pm Outing to Chicago Sky Game
6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

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

Gene Armstrong, Council Moderator

Barbara Metric, Council Clerk

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)

Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103)

Alicia Reese, Pastoral Associate, Youth & Cong. Care (ext. 104)

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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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

A labyrinth is a spiritual and meditative tool. While the labyrinth in the First United garden is always available for your use, these warm and humid summer days could be a deterrent. To see what it might be like to make use of a labyrinth as a spiritual tool, you're invited to use the finger labyrinth printed below. Prior to entering the labyrinth, whether with your finger or your feet, set an intention to focus yourself. Release your stress, anger, or frustration. As you approach the center, quiet your mind, listen, be open, and let the spirit guide the process, as the walk draws you closer to God. Then reflect on your devotional walk as you follow the path out and reconnect with your daily life.

