

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**  
**26 AUGUST 2018**



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Grace is the face love wears when it meets our imperfection.” - Joseph R. Cooke

“To have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us may be gone,  
will give us some protection forever.” - J.K. Rowling

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

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Hold Fast to the Light*

Blue Grass Band

## WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Deborah Kapp

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

# GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deborah Kapp

Though storms rage around me, I am protected by the power and armor of God

**I will fasten the belt of truth around my waist**

I will put on the breastplate of righteousness

**I will pick up the shield of faith**

I will put on the helmet of salvation

**I carry with me the sword of the Spirit**

I stand firm, ready to proclaim the gospel of peace

**Praise God! In whom I place my trust. Amen!**

## \*HYMN

*I'll Fly Away*

See insert

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Deborah Kapp

**Protector God, we wish we were stronger. We each have brokenness inside us, but you do not see us as broken. Help us to see ourselves through your eyes. There is much in the world we seek to change, give us the courage to fight for those changes. We do not deserve your gracious gift of love, but we are humbled by it. Help us to let your love in to all the cracks of our lives, and give it the power to heal, protect, and comfort us.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, God's love is poured on you, in you, and through you. We are strengthened through our God who forgives and claims us.

**Thanks be to God!**

## TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

## SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*I Saw the Light*

See insert

## SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:10-20, NT p. 195

## SERMON

The Power of God's Armor

Alicia Reese

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## \*HYMN

*Will the Circle Be Unbroken*

See insert

## FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING

BUILD Chicago

Adam Alonso

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lydia Mulkey

## OFFERTORY

*Gospel Plow*

Blue Grass Band

## \*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

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

**THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG**

Kevin Crowell

**\*HYMN**

*Amazing Grace*

See insert

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

Alicia Reese

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*I Saw the Light*

Back of Bulletin

**SENDING MUSIC**

*Little Mountain Church House*

Blue Grass Band

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED



**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.

**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 those who provide Hospitality through various ministries.

**CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS:** Please join us following today's birthday party, for discussions about our congregation's challenges and the leadership we need. These structured discussions, which will inform the work of the PNC, will be held in the church lounge and will conclude by 1pm.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are donated by Doug and Martha Sorenson with thanks and gratitude for 56 years of marriage.

**THE COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS** are given in honor of the First United members and friends included in today's 90+ Birthday Celebration! Join us for the Birthday Party held in Centennial Hall immediately following worship and we'll celebrate all of those who are turning 90 or older with delicious cake and fellowship.

**BOUNDARY TRAINING & CHURCH SCHOOL ORIENTATION:** 4:30 p.m. Newbie boundary training for those who have yet to take the full course; 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. All Church School Leader (Re) Orientation and Boundary Brush Up with dinner.

**HOSPITALITY IN WORSHIP – HELP WANTED!** 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 Bob Larson; Greeters Vicky Lekovish, Doug Thurman and Jim Wisuri and Sanctuary Guild member 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](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**HOUSE TO HOME KITS** are the key that opens the door to sustainable housing for homeless families. This year our goal is five Kits. Look for more information in the bulletin next Sunday.

**FUSH & FUJI PARENT ORIENTATION:** Wednesday September 5, FUJI at 7 p.m. & FUSH at 7:45 p.m. If you are the parent or guardian of a 7th or 8th grader, please come at 7 p.m. on September 5 to learn more about our youth program, FUJI! You will be given information, the chance to register your youth, and can ask questions and see what this program is all about. The same will happen at 7:45 pm for parents or guardians of 9th-12th graders. I hope to see you all there! If you have questions in the meantime, contact Alicia Reese, areese@firstunitedoakpark.com.

**SAVE THE DATE!** September 9 – Gathering Day | The Great Adventure  
September 16 – Centennial Picnic 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:

- Please 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](mailto: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. 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'.



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**

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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, AUGUST 26

9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
10:00 am Summer Worship  
Fourth Sunday Offering  
11:00 am 90+ Birthday Party!  
11:30 am Congregational Conversations  
12:00 pm Church School Leader orientation  
3:00 pm PFLAG  
6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

### MONDAY, AUGUST 27

9:00 am CPM Meeting (presbytery)  
6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program  
6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

4:00 pm Pro Musica Open House  
6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program  
7:00 pm Governance Task Force

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program  
6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring Registration

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

6:30 pm Summer Shelter Program

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
10:00 am Summer Worship  
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 Assoc., 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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ssamek@firstunitedoakpark.com  
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708-848-4910, www.firstunitedschool.com  
708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org  
708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org  
susanzaruba@gmail.com  
773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org  
708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org  
847-446-6955, www.northshoresamaritan.org

Some bright morning when this life is o'er  
I'll fly away  
To a home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away

Chorus:

I'll fly away oh glory  
I'll fly away  
When I die Hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone  
I'll fly away  
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly  
I'll fly away

Chorus

Oh how glad and happy when we meet  
I'll fly away  
No more cold iron shackles on my feet  
I'll fly away

Chorus

Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joys will never end  
I'll fly away

Chorus (2x acapella)

SONG OF ILLUMINATION AND BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*I Saw the Light*



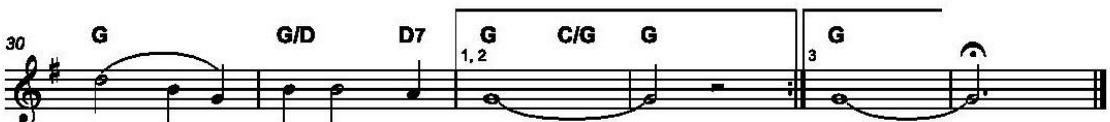
Praise the Lord! \_\_\_\_\_ I saw the light.



I saw the light, \_\_\_\_\_ I saw the light, \_\_\_\_\_ No more in dark-ness, no more in



night; \_\_\_\_\_ (And) now I'm so hap-py, no sor-row in sight- \_\_\_\_\_ Praise the



Lord! \_\_\_\_\_ I saw the light. \_\_\_\_\_ light. \_\_\_\_\_

\* HYMN

*Will the Circle be Unbroken*

I was standing by my window  
On a cold cloudy day  
When I saw that hearse come rolling  
For to carry my mother away

Chorus:

Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, Lord, by and by  
There's a better home awaiting  
In the sky, Lord, in the sky

Well I told the undertaker  
Undertaker please drive slow  
For the body that you are hauling  
Lord, I hate to see her go

Chorus

Well I followed close behind her  
Tried to hold up and be brave  
But I could not hide my sorrow  
When they laid her in her grave

Chorus (2x)

\* HYMN

*Amazing Grace*

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
T'was blind but now I see

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace, my fears relieved  
How precious is that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers toils and snares  
I have already come.  
T'is grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
T'was blind but now I see