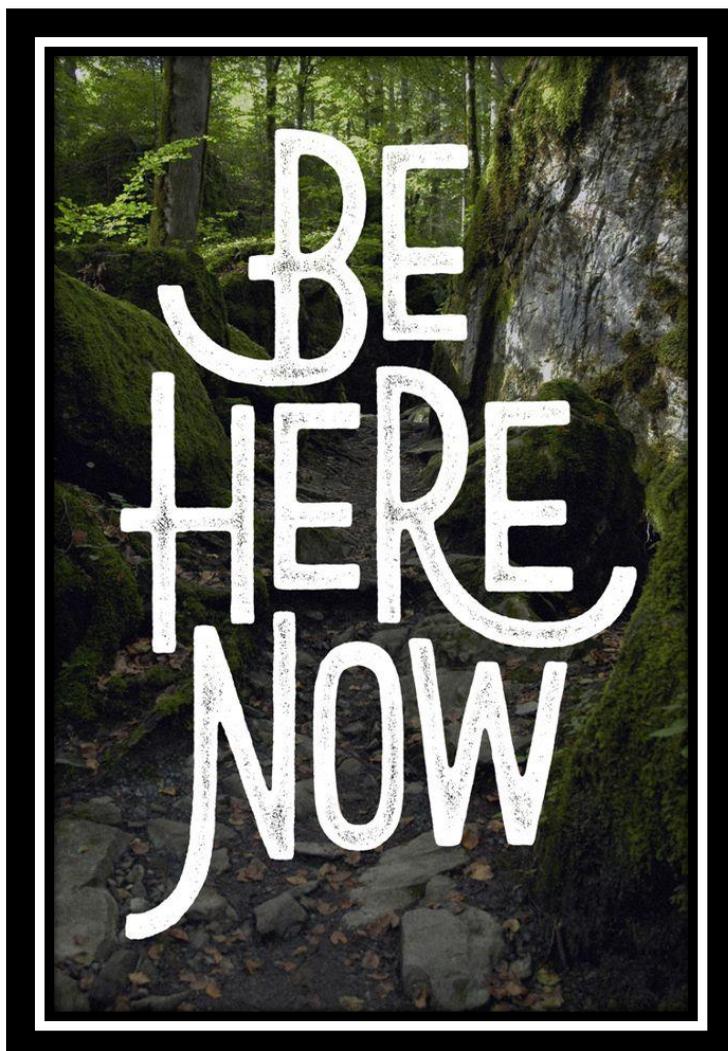


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
16 SEPTEMBER 2018



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Love does not snatch us from the pain of time, but takes the pain of the temporal upon itself.
Hope makes us ready to bear the cross of the present.”

-Jurgen Moltmann, “Theology of Hope”

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Trumpet Tune in D
Solemn Melody

David N. Johnson
Walford Davies

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

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for the opening song. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;" and "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Prayer from New Guinea

Stop where you are and still your heart. Know that God is here in this place, even as we pray,
Gracious God, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors
that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

* HYMN 292

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

Black hymnal

LITANY FOR WHOLENESS by Barbara Sargent

Deborah Kapp

Almighty God,
Whose breath quickened us,
Whose tongue named us,
Whose language we are:
Grant us grace to be true words—
Not gentle when it is in anger that we live,
Not smooth when it is desperation that we know,
Not patient when time has narrowed down to now,
Not wise, not neat, not all our fences mended,
But words, broken yet honest words, and lost,
Stumbling their way back to silence.

SILENCE.

Take us back. Recall us. Then speak us once again.
Set us in order. Mend our shattered syntax. Set all our commas straight.
Imbue in us a power that keeps company with pain,
Then march us across the pages of this beautiful, fragile, tormented,
and perishable earth to sing the songs of Zion.
In the name of the Word made flesh, made dead, and made alive again. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

HYMN 485

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

Black hymnal

Children are invited to come up during the last verse.

TIME FOR SHARING

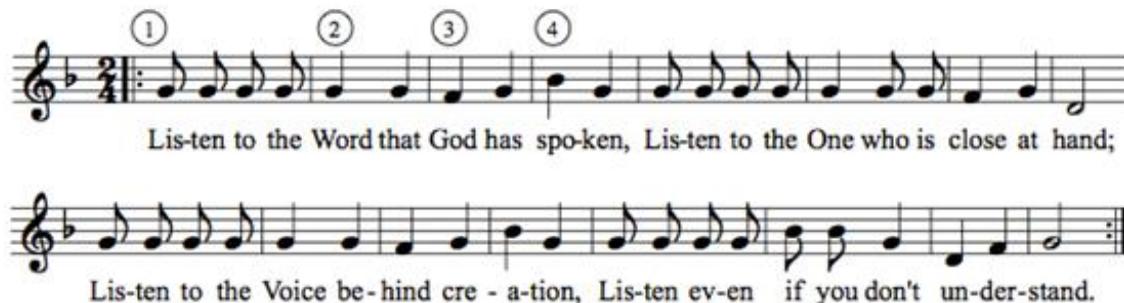
Alicia Reese

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Listen to the Word

Iona Community



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 2/4 time. The first staff has four circled numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first four notes. The lyrics are: "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."

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:34-38, NT p. 44

SERMON

It Is What It Is

Lydia Mulkey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **HYMN 476**

My Life Flows On In Endless Song

THE BROOK CHERITH

Black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deborah Kapp

OFFERTORY

Miracle Worker

Lyle K. Neff

There was a man from Galilee who worked his wonders quietly.

As people heard about him, they would come for help from miles away.

Because of him the lame could walk, the deaf could hear, the mute could talk.

Through him, the blind could see, and then the leper's skin was clean again.

(refrain:) Jesus: He was a miracle worker. Jesus: He was a miracle man.

Jesus: He is the living Savior. Jesus can save the sinner, yes, he can!

No one is like the miracle worker; Jesus can save the sinner, he can!

The crowds in desert land he fed, and he could even raise the dead.

Demand reward for this? He could, but asked for only brotherhood.

(refrain)

Of all things this man could do, this most touches me and you:

After dying on a tree, He arose to set us free.

(refrain)

***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

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

***HYMN 436**

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

Black hymnal

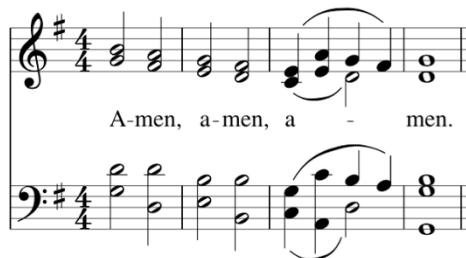
OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Lydia Mulkey

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Danish Amen



A-men, a-men, a - men.

SENDING MUSIC

Tone Piece, Op. 22, No. 1

Niels W. Gade

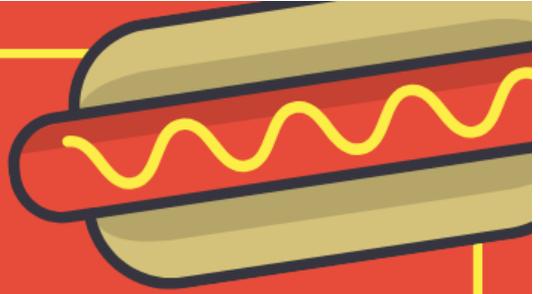


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Centennial Picnic!

Sunday, September 16, 2018
Noon on the Church Lawn

Food and fun
to celebrate 100 years of
friends and faith
at 848 Lake!



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 - 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 Art Guild members Jane Barker, Emory Mead, John Zaruba; Lead Usher Carl Nauert; Greeters: Christine Davis, Marilyn Kauffmann, Bonnie Mize and Doug Thurman; Sanctuary Guild members Cindy Palombi, Joanne Despotes, Ted Despotes and Nina Roher and the Church School Acolytes. 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.

MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE meets to share concerns - Mary Mikhael will update us on conditions in Syria and Lebanon this evening, September 16. All are welcome! Contact Pauline Coffman at p.coffman@sbcglobal.net. Potluck begins gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the First United Lounge.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING - Next week, the Inclusive Collective will receive our Fourth Sunday Offering. As a Christian ministry serving students at the University of Illinois Chicago,

MANIFESTO

We are The Inclusive Collective.

We are a community.

We are Artists. Intellectuals. Realists. Weirdos. Doubters. Believers. Students. People.

We are a safe place to be our whole selves.

Unashamed of who we are. What we look like. Or who we love.

We are shamelessly Christian...

And we exist to inspire radically inclusive communities that explore, share, and flourish in Christ's grace.

INCLUSIVE COLLECTIVE GATHERING - Ever wonder what happened to Agape House, our campus ministry partner at UIC? It relaunched in August 2015 as the Inclusive Collective (IC) and has been growing since! Today, this faith community is made up of 60 college students and young adults from more than five different universities. The IC's pastor, Rich Havard, will preach on September 23, and then Pauline Coffman will host a lunch in Centennial Hall directly after worship. Come to learn more about what God is up to in the IC and discover how you can be involved.

HUNGER WALKATHON WEST 2018 Reaches New Fundraising Record! First United helped HWW reach its new record high of \$82,000-plus by raising \$11,146.00! Thank you, First United participants and donors! A community celebration will be held on Saturday, September 29 at 2 p.m. at the Veterans Room of the Oak Park Library. All First United members/friends and the community at large are invited. A representative from Church World Service will make a presentation about international hunger programs and the ten local hunger fighting agencies HWW supports will be receiving their checks and giving an overview of their programs.

HOUSE TO HOME KITS. In cooperation with Housing Forward, the Housing Team is collecting items for House-to-Home kits to relocate five families into permanent housing. Sign up in the church lounge or at SignUp Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e48a9ae2ba3f58-housing>. Bring items to church by October 14. Questions? Contact Charlie Morris, (cmorris91120@gmail.com) or Ann Armstrong (geneann1113@yahoo.com).

MUSIC AT FIRST begins its 2018-2019 season with *Sunrise of the Soul*. King Solomon's Singers makes its Music At First debut along with veteran MAF performers The Rookery and Artemisia. It's a program of mostly Renaissance music about the three Marys: the Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, and the "other Mary." They perform at First United on Sunday, September 23 at 3 p.m. Advance tickets available at threemarys.brownpapertickets.com, or on the day of the concert.

The poster features a central painting of a woman, likely the Virgin Mary, holding a staff and a book. To her left is a sun with rays. The background is a dark red color. The text is white and arranged as follows:

Sunrise of the Soul
MUSIC FOR THREE MARYS

presented by

K S KING SOLOMON'S SINGERS

the  rookery

September 22-23, 2018 **ARTEMISIA**

CHICAGO GARGOYLE BRASS AND ORGAN ENSEMBLE – “IMAGINARY JOURNEYS.” The novel chamber ensemble of brass quintet and pipe organ will perform new works and new arrangements of classical favorites. The Gargoyles will launch listeners on an interstellar space journey, a fantastical adventure steeped in ancient Russian legends and fairy tales – courtesy of Igor Stravinsky -- and a visit to the English Baroque musical world. September 29, 7:30 p.m. Tickets and information at gargoylebrass.com.

WE'RE ALL EARS! The Lead Pastor Nominating Committee wants to hear from you. Give us your advice and share your hopes, wishes, and concerns as we search for the ideal person to become our next Lead Pastor. Speak or send a message to Caitlin Zinsser, Marteki Reed, Adam Raducha, Rick Pollock, Melanie Jakupovic, Marsha Hubbuch, Gabe Chapman-Rienstra, Cathy Cerniglia or Rick Ashton.

MIDPOINT WINE TASTING - Midpoint's first event of the new year! Join us Saturday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Susan Buchanan's house (1033 Clarence Ave., Oak Park) for a wine tasting contest. Bring two bottles of identical wine—we will have a blind taste test, and the winner gets to take home all the second bottles (recommended price range of \$5-\$15)! As with all Midpoint gatherings, please bring a snack to share. Bring a new member or friend! Please contact barbarametric@comcast.net with any questions or to get on the evite list.

HELP US REVIEW CHURCH COMMITTEE STRUCTURES - At Council's request, a Task Force on Committees was created and asked to review, analyze and evaluate the current committee structure that carries out First United's ministry and mission. The Task Force is conducting this survey to obtain a deeper level of understanding and feedback from the congregation regarding committee structure and responsibilities. Even if you haven't served on a committee at First United, your responses will be helpful.

If you would like to have a deeper conversation about committee life at First United, please contact one of the Task Force members. We are Beth Mrkvicka, Andrea Alter, Charlie Morris, Jamie Shamhart and Megan Lewis.

Complete the short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XGPCFV or pick up a paper copy on the Lounge desk and return to Dennis Cobb's mailbox.

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.



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 | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 9:00 am Quest Orientation
- 9:30 am Education for All
- 12:00 pm Centennial Picnic and Carnival
- 5:30 pm Middle East Task Force
- 6:30 pm SOPRF rehearsal

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 6:30 pm Cubs Scout Pack 16 meeting
- 6:30 pm Waging Peace meeting
- 7:00 pm Raise the Roof showcase review
- 7:00 pm Building and Grounds meeting
- 7:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- 7:00 pm Council meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 7:00 pm So You Want to Talk About Race?
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 6:00 pm Nursery School Ice Cream Social

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

- 9:00 am Talent Showcase Review
- 10:00 pm City Voices Retreat

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 8:30 am Third Grade Bible Breakfast
- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 9:00 am Quest Orientation
- 9:30 am Education for All
- 12:00 pm Inclusive Collective Celebration
- 12:30 pm Spiritual Life Teams info meeting
- 3:00 pm Sunrise of the Soul MAF Concert
- 3:00 pm PFLAG meeting

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| Gene Armstrong, Council Moderator | geneann1113@yahoo.com |
| Barbara Metric, Council Clerk | barbarametric@comcast.net |
| Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101) | dkapp@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103) | lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Alicia Reese, Pastoral Assoc., Youth & Cong. Care (ext. 104) | areese@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| William Chin, Director of Music (ext. 108) | bill@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Michael Surratt, Organist | msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Amanda Swanson, Manager of Operations (ext. 102) | aswanson@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Dennis Cobb, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100) | dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Maureen Wheeler, Financial Consultant (ext. 106) | mwheeler@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Susan Samek, Financial Assistant (ext. 109) | ssamek@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds | kliesse@firstunitedoakpark.com |
| First United Church Nursery School | 708-848-4910, www.firstunitedschool.com |
| Housing Forward | 708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org |
| Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry | 708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org |
| The Kid's Kloset, children's clothing ministry | susanzaruba@gmail.com |
| Cluster Tutoring | 773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org |
| Pro Musica Youth Chorus | 708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org |
| Samaritan Counseling Center | 847-446-6955, www.northshoresamaritan.org |