

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
18 NOVEMBER 2018



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“The more you express gratitude for what you have,  
the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.”

— Zig Ziglar

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

GATHERING MUSIC

*Now Thank We All Our God* (two settings)

J. S. Bach

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.**

\*OPENING SONG

*Be Still and Know that I am God*



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## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lydia Mulkey

This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Friends and family support and care for, and this community shows us God's loving ways.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

We find a home in God's creation and the earth gives us good food to make us grow.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Let us celebrate the wondrous gifts that God has given us.

**May we show our gratitude by the ways in which we live and care for others.**

**Amen.**

\*HYMN 559

*We Gather Together*

KREMSER

Blue hymnal

## CALL TO PRAYER

We can always come to God, with honesty and truth, and God will always listen. Let us pray...

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

In a world of brokenness, we seek to find the places of seen and unseen splendor. Deliver us from intolerance, cynicism, and hatred toward our fellow human beings. Challenge us to let go of what does not serve us well, what does not serve your greater purpose. We are not satisfied with the injustice the plagues our communities, that we perpetuate. Give us the courage and strength to seek and create wholeness where there was once brokenness, justice where there was once inequity; make us brave disciples of your peace.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God's love is everlasting, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## TIME FOR SHARING

Blue hymnal 555

My Story, My Song

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Sallie Smylie

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 2:1-10, OT p. 245

## SERMON

Practicing Gratitude

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## \*HYMN 554

Blue hymnal

*Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

## MINUTE FOR GIVING

Don & Priscilla Sibley

## PLANNED GIVING ANNOUNCEMENT

Gene Armstrong

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deborah Kapp

## OFFERTORY

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

## \*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.**

**OUR ROOF AND SANCTUARY PROJECT**

Today we celebrate and recognize the countless hours of dedication and hard work put in over the last year by several members of our First United community to make the rehabilitation of the sanctuary and refinishing of the roof a possibility. Please stand when you hear your name: Paul Aeschleman, Gene Armstrong, Hank Bode, Gary Cerniglia, Jackie Eckholm, John Hembling, Mark Jolicoeur, Keith Liesse, Emory Mead, Kelly Pollock, Doug Sorensen, Amanda Swanson, and of course John Zaruba. Additionally, would all other members of the Buildings & Grounds committee, Council, and those on committees who helped put the necessary financing into place, please also stand.

These folks were called by God through the voice of the church to give their time and talents in service of our sanctuary and roof projects.

**We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ and the wider church.**

**We celebrate God's call to those who minister and serve among us.**

For the last year these folks have dedicated countless hours of their time sharing their expertise, researching, corresponding, following up, and staying involved with all the aspects of having our roof and sanctuary redone. Without them this would not have been a possibility.

To each of you that have served these projects over the last year, we thank you!

**Thank you!**

Eternal God, look mercifully upon this church and upon your multitude of servants and, in particular, those whose service we recognize and celebrate today. We dedicate this place to your praise and worship. Let this place be a refuge for those who suffer or sorrow, and a beacon of hope for those in despair. Bind us ever closer to one another and draw us nearer to you, that with a newly renovated sanctuary and solid roof over our heads, we may continue to minister to this community with patience and love, with wisdom and joy, with compassion and inclusivity.

**May we enter your house with thanksgiving. Amen.**

(those who were recognized may be seated)

**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**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Danish Amen*



SENDING MUSIC

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

## 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 Greeters: Joanne Despotes, Vicky Lekovish, Anne Paluck and Jim Wisuri; Lead Usher: Carl Nauert; Sanctuary Guild members: Marilyn Heinrichs and Nina Roher; and the 7th Grade Church School Acolytes. We ask forgiveness for any omissions. If you think one or more of these Hospitality Ministries might be a fit for you, please contact Joanne Despotes at [jdespotes@gmail.com](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING, NOVEMBER 25** – Next week, the offering will support the OPRF Food Pantry, which is working to provide hunger relief in our community through: direct hunger relief

services at the pantry; home delivery and free child lunches during school breaks; hunger awareness education; and advocacy to influence anti-hunger policy

**SING WE JOYOUS**, the 2018 edition, will feature the Oriana Singers, City Voices, Pro Musica Youth Chorus, and the Sing We Joyous Orchestra. Saturday, December 8 with a 6:30 p.m. reception and silent auction, and 7:30 p.m. concert. Sunday, December 9 concert at 4:00 p.m. The event will feature The Twelve Days of Christmas and hi-jinks! It's Oak Park's favorite holiday concert for the whole family! Tickets \$25, children free.

**NO PECANS THIS YEAR!** The Alternative Christmas Store wants to let everyone know that the Erie House pecans, which have been a staple store item for years, are no longer available to us. However, the store will be open beginning November 25, the Sunday AFTER Thanksgiving.

**LEAVING A LEGACY** - Please consider making a legacy gift to First United through your will or by designating the church as a beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance, or pension plan. When you make such a gift, please let the church know. We want to thank you and add you to our list of Kindred Spirits. Questions? Contact Gene or Ann Armstrong (geneann1113@yahoo.com or 708-657-4484) or any of the pastors.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - If you knit or crochet, or are interested in learning, if you are looking to connect in a small group setting, looking for a way to get involved, help foster a community of care, and/or want to try out a new spiritual practice, please join us on the 2nd Monday of the month from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. and/or the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for fellowship, prayer, and a time for reflection. First meetings on Tuesday, November 27 at 1:00 p.m. and Monday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m.

**GOD IS IN THE DETAILS!** Now that our sound system has been upgraded, we need volunteers to operate the sound board during worship and other events which take place in the sanctuary. We're seeking 6 to 8 people to be trained for this important task and serve on a rotating basis. Please see Pete Todd at the tech table either before or after worship to receive more information; or contact Pete at toddfamily@msn.com.

**DO YOU HAVE OLD FILES?** If you were active in congregational life in the '70s, '80s, or '90s, we have a question for you: do you have any early versions of the First United Constitution squirreled away in your files? If yes, please let the Governance Task Force know! Here's why we're asking: the Task Force has been unable to find several early versions of the Constitution in our official archives. Since we are thinking about some amendments to our existing constitution, we thought we would ask around and see if anyone happens to have copies of some of these early records of First United Church. Please call or email Art Spooner, 708-383-4408, sandaspooner@comcast.net.

**FUSH COOKIE BAKE!** Cookie order forms are now available! Please help support our high school youth in going on their annual summer mission, work-camp trip. Forms are available in the lounge or on the website. Orders are due by November 26! You will be able to pick up your cookie order on December 9. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy your cookies!

# 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.
- 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 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).



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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, NOVEMBER 18

8:30 am Church School Leader breakfast  
9:00 am Sponsor-a-Family signup  
9:30 am Church School for all ages  
9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
11:00 am Worship  
6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter  
6:00 pm Monday Bible Study  
6:30 pm Waging Peace meeting  
7:00 pm Building & Grounds meeting

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

4:00 pm Pro Musica rehearsal  
7:00 pm Council Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:00 am Food Pantry Distribution

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:00 am Alternative Christmas Store  
9:30 am Church School for all ages  
9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
11:00 am Worship  
Fourth Sunday Offering  
3:00 pm PFLAG  
6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI

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

**708.386.5215**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** – Please note that the First United office will be closed next Thursday and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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)

Suzi Benes, Financial Assistant (ext. 109)

Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds (ext. 110)

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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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)