

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
20 JANUARY 2019



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“God is able to give us the interior resources to face the storms and problems of life. Let this affirmation be our ringing cry. It will give us courage to face the uncertainties of our future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a great benign Power in the universe whose name is God, and he is able to make a way out of no way, and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better [people]. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Our God is Able,” Strength to Love

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Medley of Spirituals

Eugene W. Hancock

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

Eternal Light,
shine in our hearts;
Eternal Goodness,
deliver us from evil.
Eternal Power,
be our support;
Eternal Wisdom,
scatter the shadows of our ignorance;
Eternal Compassion,
have mercy upon us,
that with heart and mind and soul and strength
we may seek your face
and be brought by your infinite mercy to the Holy Presence,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 303

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

Blue hymnal

CALL TO PRAYER

Steve Pederson

In the book of Romans, Paul confesses that "The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can't do it." Instead, he says, "I do the very thing that I don't want to do." Let us together join Paul in confessing that even though we know better, we sometimes fail. Let us pray:

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

O God, guard my speech that I may choose carefully the words I use.
Let me refrain from calling anyone bonkers, nutcase, crazy, demented,
maniac, twisted, mental, or raving mad.
Let me avoid hurling epithets like "she's got a loose screw"
or idioms that say "he is off his rocker."
Keep me from twirling my finger at the end of my ear like a twirling ribbon.
Chide me from forgetting that each are made in your image
and what is light to me may not be so very light to another.
For every descriptive that points to someone losing her mind,
could I instead use words that demonstrate compassionate regard,
and respect for difference and diversity?
Or could I simply say nothing at all?
Remind me that we are all beautifully broken,
and that those with mental illness are some of the bravest fighters
I could ever hope to know.
Guard my speech, O Holy One. Give me a mind that is on the mend.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
The law of the spirit of life in Christ has set you free.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Deborah Kapp

SONG

I Will Change Your Name

D.J. Butler, arr. G. Boelee



I will change your_ name_____ you shall no__ long - er be__ called____
I will change your_ name_____ your__ new__ name__ shall be_____



woun - ded, out - cast lone - ly or a - fraid_____ Faith ful - ness,
con - fi - dence joy - ful - ness o - ver - com - ing one_____



friend of_ God one who seeks my face_____ con - fi - dence joy - ful - ness o - ver -



com - ing one_____ faith - ful - ness, friend of God one who seeks my face



one who seeks my face

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 62: 1-5, OT p. 692

SERMON

Sticks and Stones

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 358

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

Blue hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Hallelujah Chorus

Handel, arr. Bob Christianson

*DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Deborah Kapp

*HYMN 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Blue hymnal

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

SENDING MUSIC

Toccata in G

Theodore Dubois

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

BUDGET CONVERSATION - Join council moderator Gene Armstrong for an open conversation about the 2019 budget. When? After worship today. Where? Centennial Hall. All are welcome.



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.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE to register for the 35th Annual Women's Retreat. Registration forms can be found on the church website or in brochures in the Lounge. There is still room, so plan attending a fun and meaningful weekend in Racine, Wisconsin, February 1-3.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Please join us immediately following worship on Sunday, January 27, 2019 for the presentation of the Proposed 2019 Church Budget. Church Moderator Gene Armstrong will lead the discussion, Q&A, and the congregation will vote on the proposed budget. We will move to Centennial Hall for lunch following the vote, and we will enjoy a short, interactive program around our tables.

"30s/40s SMALL GROUP" FORMING: Want to experience a deeper, spiritually richer and more connected life in 2019? Meeting regularly for spiritual development and fellowship; all are welcome. Meets near First United, 8 p.m. Mondays, January 21 to February 25. Contact Anne Paluck at annekohlenberger@gmail.com

COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING: "Unity in Community - A Neighborhood Gathering." The event will be held on Thursday, January 31 with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. with a program to follow. Priory Campus Auditorium at Dominican University. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP to oprloc@gmail.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING, JANUARY 27 -Every Monday night from September to May, 60 people, children and adults, sleep on the floor of First United's basement. Housing Forward manages the PADS Emergency shelter. As the numbers of shelter guests increases, more shelter sites are required. This month, our Fourth Sunday Offering will provide support for PADS. PLEASE consider making a gift.

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 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'.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm 2019 Budget Conversation
12:15 pm FUSH Summer Work Camp
Informational Meeting
6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Church Office Closed in observance
of MLK, Jr. Day

6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
6:30 pm PNC meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
3:30 pm Food Pantry distribution

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

12:00 pm Clergy Community of Practice
6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
7:00 pm Housing Justice meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

9:00 am Food Pantry distribution
3:00 pm Nursery School Event

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship
with Fourth Sunday Offering
12:00 pm Annual Congregational Meeting
and Lunch
6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI

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)

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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