

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
17 MARCH 2019
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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

“On the highest throne in the world, we still sit only on our own bottom.”
— Michel de Montaigne

GATHERING MUSIC

Festive Bell Flourish
First United Handbell Ensemble

Lee G. Barr

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 333

Seek Ye First, v. 1

LAFFERTY

Blue hymnal

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Kyrie eleison.**

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP *inspired by Psalm 27*

Lydia Mulkey

One thing I ask. One thing I seek. Just *one thing*:
To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life

One thing

When confusion takes over

One Way

When I am surrounded by the world’s lies

One Truth

When darkness descends

One Light

When I am tempted by so many things

One thing

*HYMN 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Blue hymnal

BAGGAGE by Steve Pederson

Kristen Gehring

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Though fear should beset us; though danger would cause us to cling to our pain and clench our doubt; though we grasp for accolades and acknowledgement to sooth our insecurities; though we are tempted to pack our bags and run; we hear a loving voice: just let go. Remember that God is reaching out with loving arms and let yourself be held.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

TIME FOR SHARING

Deborah Kapp

As children come forward, all sing:

Wherever Love Is

Musical score for the hymn "Wherever Love Is". The score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the vocal line with lyrics: "Wher- ev- er Love is God is there too, God is in me 'cause". The second staff contains the piano accompaniment with lyrics: "I love you! Wher- ev- er Love is God is there too, God is wher- ev- er Love is!". Chords are indicated above the notes: F/G, C, F, C, F, C, Dm7, Dm7/G, C, C7, F, C, Dm7, Dm7/G, C.

Words and Music by Bryan C. Sirchio

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Day by Day, Dear Lord

541

Musical score for the hymn "Day by Day, Dear Lord". The score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the vocal line with lyrics: "Day by day, Dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray: To see Thee more". The second system contains the piano accompaniment with lyrics: "clear-ly, Love Thee more dear-ly, Fol-low Thee more near-ly, Day by day. A-MEN.". Credits: Richard of Chichester (c. 1197-1253); STONETHWAITE: 3. 8. 6. 5. 6. 3. Arthur Somervell, 1931.

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RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 207

Just As I Am

WOODWORTH

Black hymnal

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Welcome and Presentation of New Members:

On behalf of the Church Council, I present these new friends who are being received into membership of this congregation:

Glenda Beatty
Dana Jenkins
Amanda Jenkins
Tracy Lowe
Harry Saunders
Gretchen Savoy

Membership Questions

Do you believe in God and trust in God's grace and love? **I do.**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Will you be a disciple of Jesus, learning from him, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with the help of God.**

Do you promise to worship with us, serve with us, pray with us and contribute to the support of Christ's ministry and mission in this place? **I do.**

The Church of Jesus Christ is a covenant people. The faith of those in the Old and New Testaments, as well as those throughout the history of the Christian Church, is deeply rooted in a

covenantal relationship with God and one another. The Christian covenant is a symbol of binding commitment between a people of faith and God, the creator and renewer of the Church. Members of this Church covenant together to:

- follow the way of Jesus, the Christ
- search for an honest expression of faith
- care for and support each other
- share in the life and worship of the Church
- contribute to its support and benevolences
- be advocates for the poor and oppressed
- seek peace and understanding in the world
- nurture and educate our members in the Christian faith
- include people of all races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and disabilities in all aspects of our congregational life

Congregational Covenant

We welcome you into this community and promise to journey together with you in faith. We offer ourselves as sisters and brothers in Christ, committing ourselves to care for one another. We offer ourselves as partners in ministry and mission, working to further God's work everywhere. We offer ourselves as companions, joining each other as the Body of Christ, growing together in Christian faith and practice. By God's grace we share this covenant in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us to gather in God's name.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Spirit Song

John Wimber, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

First United Handbell Ensemble with Marilee Castañeda, flute

***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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

*HYMN 49

Ask Me What Great Things I Know

HENDON

Black hymnal

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Lydia Mulkey

We are moving from words to witness, in our relationship with God, from individualism to intimate fellowship, in our relationship with other members of the church community, and from charity to changing structures in our relationship with the world.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

DANISH

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

SENDING MUSIC

Cantad al Señor (Oh, Sing to the Lord)

Brazilian Folk Song, arr. Susan E. Geschke

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

YOUR BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE is working this spring to beautify the gardens and plantings around our church building. **THIS AFTERNOON** from 1 – 4 p.m. is the first of a series of outdoor work days and the more hands, the better! If you've not done so already, please talk to Sarah Thompson to let her know that you'll be here to help!



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 to those who provide Hospitality through various ministries. This week we thank Greeters: Marsha Hubbuch, Vicky Lekovich, Dale Sorenson, and Jim Wisuri; Lead Usher: Bob Larson; and the 4th Grade Church School Acolytes. We ask forgiveness for any omissions. We need more people for this work! If you think one or more of these Hospitality Ministries might be a fit for you, please contact Joanne Despotes at jdespotes@gmail.com or 708-209-1377.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING will be received next Sunday, March 24, and will be used to support the Pastoral Services (Emergency Fund). This fund is used at the discretion of the pastors to provide one-time emergency support for members of the congregation who are in need and for whom a small grant will make a big difference. There are offering envelopes in your bulletin and checks can be made payable to First United with "Fourth Sunday Offering" in the memo line.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: If you are thinking about using your gifts and talents in a more formal way to contribute to our life together, the "Nominations" card in the pew racks lists a variety of ways to get involved. Several opportunities are listed. And, if you would consider serving as an officer of the congregation (elections in May), you can also indicate that on the card. (Self-nomination doesn't mean that you can be certain you will be invited to join the committee of your choice, but your input is a very important first step.)

There's plenty of room on the "Nominations" side of the card to recommend people you know to serve in specific roles. And, if you have even more ideas about who would be great, feel free to turn in two or even three cards! Please think carefully and prayerfully about yourself, and about other members of the congregation. You can put the completed card in the offering plate when it is passed, or in the Nominating Committee mailbox. Blank cards are also available at the Elder's Desk in the Lounge. You can also access and complete the form electronically on the Church web site.

DINNERS FOR 8 - PrimeTime and Midpoint will coordinate several Dinners for 8 in members' homes on several dates - April 25, 26, or 27. Hosts provide the main dish, and guests provide the sides and desserts. Contact Marcia Ashton at marciaashton@msn.com by April 1 if interested.

LENTEN BOOK GROUPS started meeting this past week. You can still join if you would like. There are two books and several times to choose from. There are two books and several times to choose from. Go to this Sign Up Genius: bit.ly/LentenBooks

HOLY WEEK HELPERS - It takes a whole village to make Holy Week such a special time here at First United. Come be a part of the magic. We need bread bakers (no experience necessary), soup warmers, table setters, and more! Talk to Lydia or go to: bit.ly/HolyWeekHelpers

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'.

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, MARCH 17**

9:15 am Adult Handbells
 9:30 am Church School for All Ages
 9:30 am New Member Class and Breakfast
 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
 11:00 am Worship
 1:00 pm Building & Grounds Spring
 Work Day
 6:00 pm FUSH

MONDAY, MARCH 18

4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
 6:00 pm Lenten Book Group
 6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
 6:30 pm Waging Peace meeting
 7:00 pm Building & Grounds meeting
 7:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 6:30 pm PNC meeting
 7:00 pm Council meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

11:00 am Lenten Book Group
 3:30 pm Food Pantry distribution
 6:00 pm Adult Handbell rehearsal
 6:30 pm Lenten Prayer
 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group
 7:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Board meeting
 7:00 pm Food Pantry Volunteer orientation

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group

FRIDAY, MARCH 22**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**

8:00 am Third Saturday Book Group
 9:00 am Food Pantry Distribution
 11:30 am Bluegrass Easter Rehearsal

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
 11:00 am Worship with 4th Sunday Offering
 3:00 pm PFLAG
 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

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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FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

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