

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
24 FEBRUARY 2019



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. So when Jesus says, “Love your enemies,” he is setting forth a profound and ultimately inescapable admonition. Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies – or else?

- Martin Luther King, Jr, “Loving Your Enemies,” reprinted in *Strength to Love*

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Antiphons V and III

Marcel Dupré

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 368**

I've Got Peace Like a River (v. 1)

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Blue hymnal

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul (x2)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mason Black and Thomas Reading

Loving God, you made this whole world
and you made us to live in it.

**In Jesus, you even became a person like us
to show us the way back to you.**

Help us to know Jesus today
as we sing and pray and listen;
through Jesus we pray.

Amen.

***HYMN 363**

Blue hymnal

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

SOJOURNER

CALL TO PRAYER

Henry Migneault and Calvin Dean

Jesus said, Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

**For everyone who asks receives,
and the one who seeks finds,
and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask,
and in our asking prepares us to receive the gifts of grace.
With confidence in God's love, let us pray:

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Dear Jesus,
it is hard to forgive people when they hurt us and our friends.
We want to hit back – and sometimes we do.
But you teach us to love our enemies no matter what they do.
Forgive us, Lord Jesus, when we do not forgive others.
Help us to understand why people hurt others,
And let our hearts be filled with love for them.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR SHARING

Chip Readling

The children may come forward as we sing:
**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris Akers

Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, for ___ if you lead me, I can-not
stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. _____

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:27-38, NT p. 64

Kinsey Mackey

SERMON

What Would Harry Potter Do?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 367

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEREPONI

Blue hymnal

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Charlie Migneault and Michael Readling

With joy, let us bring our gifts to God
as a sign of our deep devotion and faithfulness.
In dedication of our offerings, let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God of all creation;

Through your goodness, we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory,

for the service of your community,

and for the well-being of all your children. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Ubi Caritas et Amor

Maurice Duruflé

Where true love and charity are found, God is ever there.
Since the love of Christ has brought us all together, let us rejoice and be glad.
Let everyone fear and love the Lord: let us love one another in sincerity.

***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

Alicia Reese

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 536**

Lord, Make Us More Holy

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Blue hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen, Amen

SENDING MUSIC

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

TODAY IS SCOUT SUNDAY. Scouts from Troop/Pack 16 are greeting this morning: Mitch Reading, John Reading, Deming Scullin-Javier, and Liam Taylor. Scouts are also serving as acolytes and readers.

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING. Our refugee family is adapting well as they make the difficult transition from Iraq (via Turkey) to America. We continue to be involved, helping them improve their English, get training, find good jobs, find better housing, and navigate the ins and outs of American life. Money is very tight for them. Your offering will help with much needed training and supplies.



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 those who provide Hospitality through various ministries. This week we thank Greeters: Cynthia Collazo, Marge Lyon, Bonnie Mize and Debby Presier; Lead Usher: Gene Armstrong; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; and the Scout Acolytes. 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

CHILI COOK-OFF! Shrove Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 pm in Centennial Hall. This is a church-wide, community-wide fundraiser that will benefit our junior high youth group, FUJI! Please go to the Sign Up Genius below to enter a chili or cornbread recipe into the competition. Suggested donations for this event are \$5 per individual or \$20 per family.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090944A4AD2AA6F58-fuji2>

JOIN US FOR ADULT ED at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 3 when Terry Clancy, local attorney and estate planner, will be our speaker. She and her husband Michael, parents of four teenagers, had no health care directives or wills (they were too young and too healthy for that!) when crisis struck. Hear their journey and why having an estate plan in place is essential and a gift to yourself and your loved ones.

THINK SPRING!! Prepare for warmer weather and create a beautiful yard, porch or deck. The Nursery School plant sale is underway. You can purchase beautiful plants, support the school, and have the convenience of pick up on May 3 in Centennial Hall. Order forms are available in the lounge. Complete your order and place in the school mailbox in the church office. Deadline is March 15.

DINNER & A MOVIE - Friday, March 8: *Black Klansman*. In the early 1970s, Ron Stallworth becomes the first African-American detective in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a difference, he bravely sets out on a dangerous mission: infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. He recruits a seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman, into the undercover investigation. Together, they team up to take down the extremist organization aiming to garner mainstream appeal. Dinner at 5:45 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:20 p.m. (free). Sign up in lounge or call Cynthia Callazo 708-383-9228.

THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS STORE is ready for new group leadership after the current team has held it for 3-10 years. This Advent small group is both a joy and a long tradition in our church community. It is well-organized and documented for whomever might like to learn about it. The current ACS group does not plan on carrying on the store, so maybe this will become a calling for you. Call 708-822-0265 or email Laurie Jolicoeur at magistra.jolicoeur@gmail.com.

ARE YOU IN? MetroIAF/United Power Meetings for Justice. As you heard last Sunday from Rev. Mulkey, MetroIAF and United Power are doing great and important work! Next Saturday, March 2, "Do Not Stand Idly By," 9:30 - 11 a.m. (contact lois@thiessenlove.com or 708-267-3507). And next Sunday, March 3, from 3 - 4:30 p.m. is the United Power Meeting at Ascension Catholic Church, Pine Room, 601 Van Buren Street, Oak Park. Interested in making a difference? Contact Lydia Mulkey or Lois Thiessen Love.

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, FEBRUARY 24

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
9:30 am New Member Class
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship and 4th Sunday Offering
2:00 pm PrimeTime Event
3:00 pm PFLAG
6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:00 pm Monday Bible Study
6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
7:00 pm Building & Grounds meeting
7:00 pm Walkathon West meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
6:00 pm FUNS Dads Night
6:30 pm PNC meeting
7:00 pm Planned Giving meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
3:30 pm Food Pantry distribution
6:00 pm Adult Handbell rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
7:00 pm Housing Justice meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

9:00 am Food Pantry Distribution

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
9:30 am New Member Class
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship with Communion
2:00 pm Troop 16 Eagle Court
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 Closet, children's clothing ministry
Cluster Tutoring
Pro Musica Youth Chorus
Samaritan Counseling Center

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