

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
31 MARCH 2019
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family,
that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.

- Desmond Tutu

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

GATHERING MUSIC *Variations on "Let Us All Praise God"* Vincent Lübeck

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**

Seek Ye First, v. 1

LAFFERTY

Blue hymnal #333

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**

God of the past, who has created and nurtured us,

we are here to thank you.

God of the future, who is always ahead of us,

we are here to thank you.

God of the present, who is here in the midst of us,

we are here to thank you.

God of life, who is beyond us and within us,

we rejoice in your glorious love.

***HYMN 83**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

DEO GRACIAS

Blue hymnal

CALL TO PRAYER

Alicia Reese

“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened,” said Jesus, “and I will give you rest.”
With confidence in God’s eagerness to lighten our loads of sin and grief, let us pray:

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

God of compassion, you are slow to anger and full of mercy,
welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts.
Receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you.
Seat them at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children,
they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God’s word of grace: We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

TIME FOR SHARING

Luke 15: 11b – 31

Lydia Mulkey

As children come forward, all sing:

Wherever Love Is

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Wherever Love Is'. It consists of two staves of music in treble clef. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The chords are indicated by letters above the notes.

Chords: F/G, C, F, C, F, C, Dm7, Dm7/G, C, C7, F, C, Dm7, Dm7/G, C

Lyrics: Wher- ev- er Love is God is there too, God is in me 'cause I love you! Wher- ev- er Love is God is there too, God is wher- ev- er Love is!

Words and Music by Bryan C. Sirchio

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Day by Day, Dear Lord

541

Richard of Chichester (c. 1197-1253) STONETHWAITE: 3. 8. 6. 5. 6. 3.
Arthur Somervell, 1931

Day by day, Dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray: To see Thee more
clear - ly, Love Thee more dear - ly, Fol - low Thee more near - ly, Day by day. A-MEN.

Music copyright. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9, OT p. 842

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

We Are Made for Compassion

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 351

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

BORNING CRY

Black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LYDIA MULKEY

OFFERTORY

God's Gonna Set This World on Fire

arr. Moses Hogan

God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days.
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.
I'm gonna eat and never get hungry one of these days.
I'm gonna drink and never get thirsty one of these days.
God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days.

*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

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 438**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

Blue hymnal

***CHARGE**

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**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Threefold Amen

DANISH

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

SENDING MUSIC

Toccata in F

Dietrich Buxtehude

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 - 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: Bob and Kate Larson, Dave and Hyejong Marshall, and Susan Saliny; Lead Usher: Gene Armstrong; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher 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

EASTER FLOWER CONTRIBUTIONS – Honor or memorialize a loved one with a contribution for Easter flowers to adorn the sanctuary or to be delivered to one of our homebound members. Pick up and complete an order envelope at either Sanctuary entrance or on the desk in the Lounge.

TEEN VOICE AND BELL CHOIRS VISIT FIRST UNITED - The youth and hand bell choirs from First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake will perform at First United on Friday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m., kicking off their 47th annual spring concert tour. The two choirs are made up of students from high schools in the Barrington and Crystal Lake area. Admission is free.

HOUSING NEEDED - We are still in need of overnight housing Friday evening, April 5, for several of the students in the choir described above. If you are willing to host two or more students, please contact Michael Surratt at msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com or phone/text 630-209-0149.

DINNERS FOR 8 are some of the most popular adult parties for First United folks. We gather around dinner tables in individual homes to enjoy delicious food and great conversation. This year's dinners are on either April 25, 26 or 27. Hosts provide the main dish and guests bring sides, salads and desserts. Contact Marcia Ashton (marciaashton@msn.com or 708-524-5126) to identify all dates that you are available. Our church is full of amazing people, and it is a pleasure to take time to share our stories and perhaps make a new friend.

DINNER & A MOVIE - Friday, April 12: *Green Book*, When Tony Lip, a bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley, a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on "The Green Book" to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger, as well as unexpected humanity and humor, they are forced to set aside differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime. Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 p.m. (free). Signup in Lounge or call Cynthia Collazo 708-383-9228.

CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL POETRY - Join us after church on April 14 for a celebration of our Centennial Poetry booklets. We will enjoy cookies and coffee with the chance to greet our newly discovered poets. There will be more information in next week's bulletin.

EAT PIZZA AND HELP CLUSTER TUTORING - Take a break from the kitchen and enjoy pizza from Lou Malnati's in Oak Park on April 3 to raise money for Cluster Tutoring. 20% of sales will go to Cluster. You must mention the fundraiser when you order and show them either a paper flyer (available at both Sanctuary entrances) or an online version from your phone. Buon appetito!

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES - Welcome spring with people of faith committed to building unity in our community. We'll hear compelling stories of neighbors meeting across difference to share the histories that have made us who we are and the hope for creating a new future together. We will gather over a simple, but hearty meal and be invited into conversation with one another. Religious leaders from Oak Park and Chicago's West Side will be the hosts and guides on Thursday, April 4 at Dominican University in the Priory Campus Auditorium. RSVP oprfcoc@gmail.com (\$15 donation)

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.

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



Upcoming Workshop!

Our Community of Care Prepares for One Day, One Very Special Day
Saturday, April 6, 10:00- 2:00

All are invited to participate in a workshop “Our Community of Care Prepares for *One Day, One Very Special Day*” offered on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 10 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with lunch provided. (Please RSVP via Facebook Event or to lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com for the lunch.)

One Day, One Very Special Day refers to the day 100% of all living beings will come to at the end of this life and the promise of a life that need never end. What leads up to this “one very special day” is the theme of this workshop, with a study of how our *Community of Care* helps address the physical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of preparing for one’s end of life and the death of loved ones.

This workshop is not intended to make us sad but to render us empowered! We are invited to enter a type of training program, analogous to that of preparing for the birth of a child. There are exercises that make us strong, coaching akin to midwifery, learning that helps us see the course before us, and familiarity that drives away fear.

Our Community of Care Prepares for One day, One Very Special Day workshop does not falsely promise understanding of death, nor does it pledge acquiescence to death’s difficult reality. We are human beings asked to grapple with questions of suffering, loss, derailment of plans, and anticipatory grief. *How* we grapple, *what* we find to be significant, and *to whom* we turn *when* that special day approaches is the stuff of being human. It is the stuff of being and becoming, rather than of doing and having.

Led by Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski and Rev. Bunny Hughes, this *Community of Care* offering is intended for people of all ages, life experience, and for those at any point along the pilgrim path. It is for those open and willing to embrace a possibly new perspective on death.

In reality, we tend to prepare for death as we have lived our daily lives. In the end, we yearn for authenticity, comfort, and grace – as we meet our new beginning.

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 31

- 9:30 am Church School for All Ages
- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:15 pm Committee Chair meeting
- 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

MONDAY, APRIL 1

- 6:00 pm Lenten Book Group
- 6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
- 6:30 pm PNC meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

- 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- 6:30 pm PNC meeting
- 7:00 pm Children's Ministry meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

- 11:00 am Lenten Book Group
- 6:30 pm Lenten Prayer
- 6:30 pm PNC meeting
- 6:45 pm Deacon meeting
- 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group
- 7:00 pm Food Pantry distribution

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

- 9:00 am Food Pantry staff meeting
- 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
- 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

- 7:00 pm First Cong. Crystal Lake
Youth Choir Concert

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

- 9:00 am Food Pantry distribution
- 9:00 am Pro Musica staff meeting

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

- 8:30 am Church School Leader breakfast
- 9:30 am Church School for All Ages
- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Flower Power
- 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	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
Suzi Benes, Financial Assistant (ext. 109)	sbenes@firstunitedoakpark.com
Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds (ext. 110)	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



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)