

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
12 MAY 2019



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so,
For, those, whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me;
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well,
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more, Death, thou shalt die.
- John Donne

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Four Chorale Preludes

Paul Manz

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name; If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee;
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; Be Thou My Vision*

WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Deborah Kapp

ANNOUNCEMENT AND READING OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Teri Omert

*OPENING SONG

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

GELOBT SEI GOTT



***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***OPENING SONG REPRISE** (*see music above*)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

I arise today through a mighty strength,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness of the Creator.
**I arise today through God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me.**

***HYMN 288**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

Blue hymnal

LITANY OF PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey

As we gather for prayer, let us remember our common needs: our fragility, our disappointments, and our griefs.

Silence is kept

With trust in God's love for us in Christ, let us pray:
Lord Jesus Christ, we acknowledge your rule over every realm of life:
Subdue the world by the might of your love.

Son of Mary:

Consecrate our homes.

Son of David:

Cleanse our politics.

Son of God:

Grant us eternal life.

Jesus the carpenter:

Hallow our daily work.

Jesus the savior,

Save us from ourselves.

Jesus the life-giver:

Renew your church.

Jesus the crucified:

Reveal your love and power to all who suffer.

Jesus the king:

Raise us to live and reign with you forever.

Jesus the word of God:

Perfect your creation

and bring the world to the knowledge of your love.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

forever and ever. Amen.

TIME FOR SHARING

The children are invited to come forward as we sing:

Alleluia

Jerry Sinclair

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Refrain

Al - lel - lu - ia, al - lel - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - lel - lu - ia! Give praise to His ___ Name.

Verse

2. Spread the good news o'er all the ___ earth:

Je - sus has died and has ri - sen.

D.C.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21, NT p. 94

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

Just a Comma

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 324**

Open My Eyes

OPEN MY EYES

Blue hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

As Truly As God Is Our Father

William Mathias

As truly as God is our Father, so just as truly is he our Mother.
In our Father, God Almighty, we have our being;
in our merciful Mother we are remade and restored.
Our fragmented lives are knit together.
And by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace,
to the Holy Spirit we are made whole.

It is I, the strength and goodness of Fatherhood.
It is I, the wisdom of Motherhood.
It is I, the light and grace of holy love.
It is I, the Trinity, it is I, the unity.
I am the sovereign goodness in all things.
It is I who teach you to love. It is I who teach you to desire.
It is I who am the reward of all true desiring.

All shall be well, and all shall be well,
and all manner of thing shall be well. Amen.
—*Julian of Norwich (b. 1342)*

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Blue hymnal

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Halle, halle, halle

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le -

lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

SENDING MUSIC

Trumpet Tune in D

David N. Johnson

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

THE FLOWERS TODAY are given in loving memory of Mary Johnson Hunt by her children.



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 Lead Usher: Bonnie Mize; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; Greeters: Clara Kearley, Emory Mead, Sue Saliny and Doug Thurman; and the Preschool 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 or 708-209-1377.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - The annual elections meeting of the congregation is called for Sunday, May 19, 2019 following worship. Two items are on the agenda. The first is election of Council members, Deacons, and members of the Nominating Committee, per the slate listed below. The second item is revisions to the Church's Constitution which have been proposed for adoption by the congregation.

Nominating Committee slate:

- For Church Council: Carol Ingram, Megan Lewis, Sue Saliny, and a one-year extension for Priscilla Sibley. Also nominated for election by the congregation are Chase Gentile and Sallie Smylie, who were appointed by Council to fill unexpired terms.
- For Youth members of Church Council: Samantha Duwe, and a one-year extension for Paul Raducha.
- For Deacons: Leah Beckwith, Len Palombi, and Betsy Samore.
- For Nominating Committee: Ryan Issel and Lois Merrill.

There will be a third informational session about the Constitution, following worship today. Members who are interested are invited to meet with members of the Governance Task Force and Council members in the lounge, near the piano. All are encouraged to attend the meeting on the 19th.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC – Next Sunday (May 19) following the Congregational Meeting. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share.

SPRING WORK DAY – Building & Grounds will be beautifying the church yard on Sunday, May 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. and they need volunteers! Planting grasses and wildflowers, dividing and transplanting perennials, and spreading mulch are all on the list of projects. Read all the details in the May Messenger Bell.

SUMMER MEALS VOLUNTEERS - Many kids who rely on school meals struggle to get enough to eat during the summer months. The Summer Food Service Program (Summer Meals) provides kids and teens with nutritious meals when school is not in session. This program is only possible through the help of many volunteers. Come to the orientation if you're interested in lending us a hand! If you can help, orientation will be Thursday, May 23 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at First United.

36TH HUNGER WALKATHON WEST to End Hunger One Step at A Time! The First United Team was out on May 5 soaking up the incredible weather and raising money to alleviate hunger. To date the Team has raised just over \$7000.00 - hurrah!. We have a little way to go to meet our goal of \$12,500.00. If you have not yet donated to support your First United Team, it is NOT too late! You can go online to hwwcrop.org and press DONATE NOW and select a walker you wish to support OR just support the Team. Either way, you will be helping hungry people locally and around the world. For more information please call Joanne or Ted Despotes at 708-209-1377.

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, MAY 12

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Second Sunday Sundaes
5:15 pm FUJI to the Boulevard
6:00 pm FUSH Gathering

MONDAY, MAY 13

4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
7:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 14

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
5:00 pm Pro Musica party
7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting
7:00 pm Newcomers Committee meeting
7:00 pm Youth Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
3:30 pm Food Pantry Distribution
7:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Board meeting
7:00 pm Food Pantry Volunteer Orientation

THURSDAY, MAY 16

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
6:30 pm Faith in Action meeting

FRIDAY, MAY 17

SATURDAY, MAY 18

8:00 am Third Saturday Book Group
9:00 am Food Pantry Distribution

SUNDAY, MAY 19

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Congregational Meeting
Annual Church Picnic
2:00 pm Outdoor Work Day
6:00 pm FUJI Year-End Party

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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708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org

708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org

susanzaruba@gmail.com

773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org

708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org

847-446-6955, www.northshoresamaritan.org

Sandwiches and Drinks Provided.

May 19
**Annual
Church Picnic**
Following Worship

Please bring side dishes
and desserts to share.



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an open community united in love & justice

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

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