

# First United Church of Oak Park

September 22, 2019





# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"If an audience kept complete silence during a challenge parable from Jesus and if an audience filed past him afterward saying, 'Lovely parable, this morning, Rabbi,' Jesus would have failed utterly."

— John Dominic Crossan, *The Power of Parable: How Fiction by Jesus Became Fiction about Jesus*

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

GATHERING MUSIC

*Cantabile*

César Franck

WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Lydia Mulkey

\*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*OPENING SONG

*God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN

God wel - comes all, stran - ers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for the opening song 'God Welcomes All'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics 'God wel - comes all, stran - ers and friends;' and the second system has 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.' The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alicia Reese

In hope, and in longing

**We're glad to come together.**

In forgiveness, and in community

**We're glad to come together.**

In many moods, and many shapes  
**We're glad to come together.**  
In solidarity with those who struggle  
**We're glad to come together.**  
In resistance to those who dominate  
**We're glad to come together.**  
In allegiance only to Love  
**We're glad to come together.**

**\*HYMN 464**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

Blue hymnal

**CALL TO PRAYER**

John Edgerton

**PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS**

May we not accumulate wealth while millions are destitute.  
**May we not accept membership where others are excluded.**  
May we not enjoy privileges only given to some.  
**May we not pledge our time or talent to causes that do not further your realm.**  
May we appreciate what we have and share with others.

God reaches out now with an invitational embrace and beckons you to the fullness of life. Lay at God's feet whatever would stand between you and the abundant life God offers.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

**ASSURANCE OF LOVE**

God has always loved you, loves you now, and will love you forevermore. God offers you a new day full of forgiveness, hope, and opportunity. **Thanks be to God.**

*Children, please come forward as we sing.*

*Alleluia*

Jerry Sinclair

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

**TIME FOR SHARING**

Alicia Reese

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

## SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Let It Breathe On Me*



Let it breathe on me, — let it breathe on me, — let the breath of the  
Spi - rit breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, — let it  
breathe on me, — let the breath of God now breathe on me.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 16:1-13, NT p. 79

## SERMON

*Seems Fishy*

Lydia Mulkey

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## \*HYMN 298

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

Blue hymnal

## MINUTE FOR MISSION: PADS VOLUNTEERS

Leah Pollock

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Edgerton

## OFFERTORY

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Harold A. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when, humbly, in thy name,  
Two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them:  
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,  
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.  
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.

**\*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**

John Edgerton

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**

Jane Vachon, Roz Beile

**\*HYMN 289**

*O God of Every Nation*

LLANGLOFFEN

Blue hymnal

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Lydia Mulkey

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Danish Amen*



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

**SENDING MUSIC**

*Rigaudon*

André Campra

# 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 Lead Usher: Bonnie Mize and the on-call ushers; the 3rd and 4th grade church school acolytes; Greeters: Joanne Despotes, Vicky Lekovish, Dave and Hyejong (Joy) Marshall; and the Sound Board crew including Pete Todd, Mark Breen, Ezra Broughton and Carl Nauert. 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](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377.

**DO YOU HAVE A NAMETAG?** Please check to see if you have a nametag on the nametag rack in the lounge. If not, please request one on the clipboard on the lounge desk. It would be great if everyone had a nametag and wore it while our new lead pastor is getting to know us!

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**FALL PEACE VIGIL** - Seek peace and pursue it. We will stand for peace in our neighborhoods, our country, and the world at the Fall Peace Vigil. Take a stand against gun violence and pray for protection from violence for our neighbors near and far. Join us on First United front steps on Sunday, October 6 at 7 p.m.

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS STORE NEEDS YOUR HELP** - Mary Sue Voth and Teri Omert are managing the Alternative Christmas Store and need your help to make it work. We need help planning, developing a brochure, and ordering for the sale. We also need day of sale help: set up, collecting money, and assisting customers on 1 to 4 days. Contact: [tomert@comcast.net](mailto:tomert@comcast.net).

**UNITED POWER MAJOR ASSEMBLY** - United Power invites you to a major assembly with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. On the agenda is Affordable Housing, Crisis Stabilization Units, and Public Gun Purchases & the Gun Safety Consortium. The meeting is TODAY, September 22 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at DRW College Prep, 931 S. Homan Avenue, Chicago. A bus will leave First United at 4:15 p.m. Contact Lois Thiessen Love at [lois@thiessenlove.com](mailto:lois@thiessenlove.com) if you plan to attend this important meeting!

**HELP NEEDED FOR PADS.** We need 5 or 6 regular volunteers to help staff our shifts on the 3rd and 5th (if there is one) weeks of the month. Although all are welcome, we are in particular need of additional male volunteers. We need help on the Monday dinner shift (6:30 – 10:30 p.m.) and also on Tuesday mornings (5 – 7:30 am). Questions? Contact Matt Kemper, [mattkemper1227@gmail.com](mailto:mattkemper1227@gmail.com), PADS site supervisor.

**PADS LUNCH SUPPLIES** – Help is needed with providing supplies for the PADS lunches that our church school classes make and pack. Juice boxes, individually packaged snacks and desserts, paper lunch bags, napkins, and plastic sandwich bags are all acceptable donations. Bring as much as you can! Thank you for your support!

**VOLUNTEER WITH TEAM NEW MOMS** - Want to help on race day and hand out water and snacks at the New Moms water and cheer station along the race course? It's a fun family event being held on Saturday, September 28 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Contact Lois at [lois@thiessenlove.com](mailto:lois@thiessenlove.com) or Jenna Hammond at [jhammond@newmoms.org](mailto:jhammond@newmoms.org).

**WE NEED YOU – YES, YOU – FOR HOUSE-TO-HOME** - We are super challenged this year as we collect items to furnish five apartments for our House-to-Home project. Housing Forward's list of needed items is longer and more comprehensive than in past years. We need everyone's participation. Please sign up in the Lounge or online at [bit.ly/HousetoHome](http://bit.ly/HousetoHome) to donate items. We are moving from Words to Witness as we help make the move from homelessness to stable housing a joyful experience for Housing Forward clients. Check the list at the end of the bulletin for items we still need.



*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](mailto: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](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving).

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:15 am Quest Connect  
9:30 am Education for All Ages  
11:00 am Worship  
Noon Prayer & Anointing  
12:30 pm FUSH Task Force  
1:30 pm JR.HI. Youth Group  
1:30 pm SR.HI. Youth Group  
3:00 pm PFLAG

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

9:00 am CPM Meeting (Presbytery)  
4:00 pm Restorative Justice Curriculum  
6:00 pm Monday Bible Study  
6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter  
6:30 pm CMA Justice and Witness Ministry  
7:30 pm Adult Ed Committee meeting

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
7:00 pm Finance Committee

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
3:00 pm Beyond Hunger  
Food Pantry Distribution  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Have a Great Weekend!

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:00 am Beyond Hunger  
Food Pantry Distribution

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 am Education for All Ages  
11:00 am Worship  
Noon Prayer & Anointing  
12:30 pm FUSH Task Force  
6:00 pm JR.HI. Youth Group  
6:00 pm SR.HI. Youth Group

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM  
708.386.5215**

Gene Armstrong, Council Moderator

Carl Nauert, Council Clerk

John Edgerton, 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

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708-848-4910, [www.firstunitedschool.com](http://www.firstunitedschool.com)

708-338-1724, [www.housingforward.org](http://www.housingforward.org)

708-386-1324, [www.oprffoodpantry.org](http://www.oprffoodpantry.org)

[susanzaruba@gmail.com](mailto:susanzaruba@gmail.com)

773-378-5530, [www.clustertutoring.org](http://www.clustertutoring.org)

708-406-9597, [www.promusicayouthchorus.org](http://www.promusicayouthchorus.org)

# HOUSING FORWARD'S HOUSE TO HOME KIT LIST

Sign up in the Lounge or online at [bit.ly/HousetoHome](http://bit.ly/HousetoHome)  
and bring your item(s) to church on  
Oct. 6 or Oct. 13

Thanks for the great response so far! These are the items we still need.

## Kitchen

Glasses (set of 4-8)  
Food Storage Containers  
Coffee Mugs  
Kitchen Towels  
Pots and pans

## Small Appliances/Electronics

Toaster  
Microwave  
Coffee Pot  
Vacuum  
Fan (table or floor model)  
Television\* See note below  
Digital Antenna for flat screen TVs

## Bedroom

Bed Sheet set - Queen - (top & bottom sheets  
& 2 pillow cases)  
Bed Pillow (set of 2)  
Blanket - Queen  
Bedbug mattress protectors – Queen  
Alarm clock radio  
Hangers (set of 20 hangers)

## Bathroom

Towel set (bath towel, hand towel, & wash  
cloth)  
Non-slip mat for shower/tub  
Shower curtain and hooks  
Bath mat and rug

## Cleaning Supplies

All-purpose cleaning spray  
Sponges (non-scratch/scrubbing type)  
Bucket  
Mop  
Trash can and bags  
Paper towels (package of 10 or more)  
Dusting spray  
Toilet bowl cleaner  
Laundry soap and fabric softener sheets

## Personal Hygiene

Tissues (3 boxes)  
Toilet paper (package of at least 10 rolls)  
Bar soap (package of 4 – 8 bars)  
Shampoo and conditioner  
Toothbrush and toothpaste  
Shave gel or cream  
Comb or brush

## Miscellaneous

Laundry basket or bag

Housing Forward's donation policy requests that **all soft items (bedding, towels, rugs, etc.) be purchased new**. While we accept gently used items, donating new items helps convey the message of new belongings, and that "this is home."

**Note: Televisions are important** "House to Home" items because they help clients transition back to living alone in an apartment, often after congregant living in the PADS Shelter. Watching television is one way they can re-establish their connections to the community and world around them.



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](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)