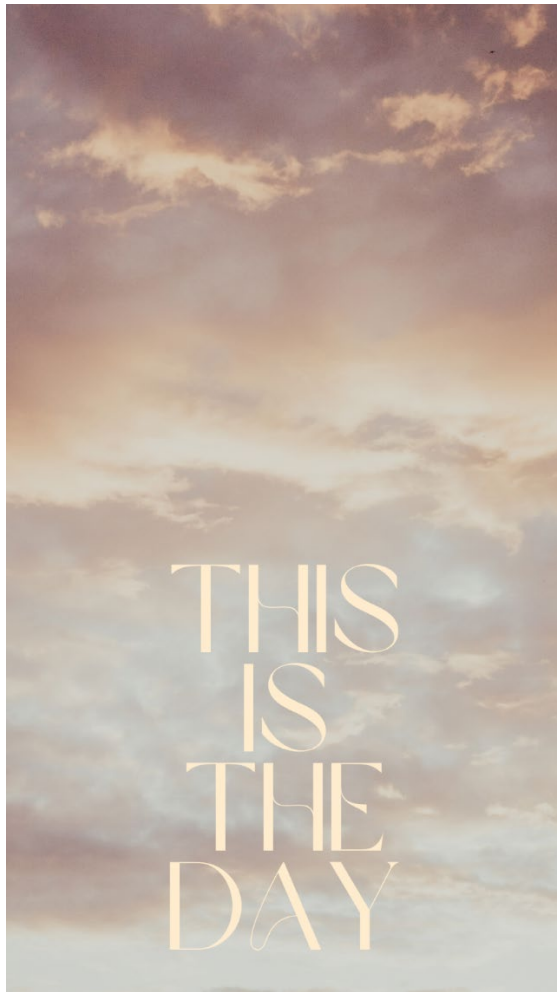


# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

February 4, 2024



*An open community united in love and justice*

**Bold text indicates congregation participation**

\*Indication to stand in body or spirit

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

*Children's Prayer from Sweden* by Roberta Bitgood

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Damon

Life is that place where we discover and express who we are. We choose who we will listen to and we decide the paths we will follow.

**Worship is one of the places we make these decisions. It is where we become aware of our listening and following. It is where we can choose an alternative path to the assumptions and habits of the crowd.**

Life is lived facing forward into infinite possibility, and facing back it is fixed, it is remembered, it can be our teacher, but it cannot be changed.

**In worship we accept this living between memory and hope as a divine adventure and in faith we pray, "Thy Kingdom come. . ."**

**Let us worship God!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*I Woke Up This Morning* (Black Hymnal no. 85, vv. 1 & 2)

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,  
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.**

**Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus, . . .**

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus, . . .**

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil Price

**O God you have called us to rise up with wings as eagles. We are to soar in skies of unlimited possibility and to trust our wings. You have called us into boundless skies of new ideas and daring hope. You call us to rise and see challenges and problems from a high perspective that is able to see beyond the immediate, and the urgent, to contemplate the important, and that of inestimable value. Be in us and among us as we worship. Amen.**

*Time for Silent Prayer*

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

If God is love and we are created in the image of God, then love is our truest nature. We are ever called to generously express our deepest truth and our highest nature. We are truly most ourselves when love shines through us. Amen.

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

**"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.  
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

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### TIME FOR SHARING

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

### \*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*I've Got a Feeling* (Black hymnal no. 458)

**I've got a feeling, everything is gonna be all right.**

**O I've got a feeling, everything is gonna be all right.**

**O I've got a feeling, everything is gonna be all right,  
be all right, be all right, be all right.**

**Jesus already told me, everything is gonna be all right.**

**O Jesus already told me, everything is gonna be all right. . . .**

**The Spirit has confirmed it, everything is gonna be all right. . . .**

FIRST READING – ISAIAH 40:21-31

Chris Damon

SCRIPTURE READING – MARK 1:29-39

Pastor Phil Price

SERMON – AND I WILL RAISE YOU UP

SERMON RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*God of Change and Glory* (Black hymnal no. 177, v. 1)

**God of change and glory, God of time and space,**

**when we fear the future, give to us your grace.**

**In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.**

***Refrain:* Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.**

**In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise**

**one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God**

**known in many ways, hallowing our days.**

**For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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COMMUNION

Pastor Phil Price

CALL TO COMMUNION AND TO THE OFFERING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL

ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

*A House of Prayer for All People* by Carlton R. Young

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former,  
and in this place will I give peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor 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, the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

## GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

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INVITATION TO JOIN THE CIRCLE

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

Sanctuary Choir

*In the Midst of New Dimensions* (Black hymnal no. 391)

& Congregation

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

***Refrain:* God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.**

**Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? R/**

**As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. R/**

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. R/**

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. R/**

**\*BLESSING**

Pastor Phil Price

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Sanctuary Choir

*God Be with You* (Black hymnal no. 81, v. 1)

& Congregation

**God be with you till we meet again; / By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you: / God be with you till we meet again.**

***Refrain:* Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

*Festive Trumpet Tune* by David German



# EVENTS AND UPDATES

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*Below is just a sampling of the news and events at First United. You can find our full calendar at [firstunitedoakpark.com/calendar](http://firstunitedoakpark.com/calendar). Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) for our weekly newsletter and lots more.*

## Please Join Us Downstairs After Worship

Let's celebrate Pastor Phil and his ministry here at First United! Grab a sub from Starship, enjoy some dessert, and get to know more about Pastor Phil today in Centennial Hall.

## Dinner and a Movie, February 9

February's showing of Dinner and Movie features *Captain Fantastic*. Dinner at 6:00 (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). Use the Signup Genius link in the weekly eblast or email Ron Haas ([haas.inchicago@comcast.net](mailto:haas.inchicago@comcast.net)) to RSVP.

## Continue the Journey on the Freedom Trail Next Sunday

Adult Ed continues its focus on *Migratory Journeys: Seeking a Better Life* with the second installation of *Reflections on Following the Freedom Trail*. Join First United Members Linda Sandman & Rich Wheelock, Jackie Eckholm & David Wilson, and Sara Stevenson & Mark Breen as they share their experiences. Meet in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m.

## Christmas in February Next Sunday

Need a Valentine's Day gift? The Alternative Christmas Store team will sell items in the church lobby on February 11, before and after service. Food items include soups, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and chocolate bars. We also have non-food items such as a denim purse, bread warmer, child-size crocheted hats, and candles. Spend \$20.00 and get a free mug rug (while the supply lasts). Cash or check only please.

## Ash Wednesday Worship, February 14

First United will hold a family-friendly service Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. designed to help us put away the pressures of the world that ask us to perform and to put on brave fronts. We gather to remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

## FUNS Registration Is Open for All

First United Church Nursery School is now accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. We are a part-day program offering 2, 3 and 4-day-a-week classes for 2-year-olds, and 4 and 5-day-a-week classes for children aged 3-5. Registration forms are available on our website at [www.firstunitedschool.com/enrollment](http://www.firstunitedschool.com/enrollment). Questions? Call or email Amy Cardin at [acardin@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:acardin@firstunitedoakpark.com) or 708-848-4910.

# WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED!

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 LGBTQ+ people in membership & ministry.

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT FIRST UNITED

Interested in learning more about First United Church? Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to Pastor Lydia, or join us for a Newcomers class held three times per year. **The next class will be held February 18 and 25 and March 3 at 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel.**

## ADULT EDUCATION

Faith formation doesn't end after Church School. Adult Education takes a variety of forms, from small, group Bible studies to Sunday morning Speaker Series. Weekly Bible study and Speaker Series meet during Sunday education hour at 9:45 a.m.

## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & OUR NURSERY

We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We also offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery. Ask an usher for directions.

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School is for children ages birth through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Meeting Sundays at 9:45 a.m., September through mid-May, we tell stories of the Bible using a lens of love and justice with singing, praying, and creating. Contact Lydia Mulkey ([lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)) to learn more.

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

Are you interested in singing in worship with our Sanctuary Choir? Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., September through May. For more information contact Bill Chin ([bill@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bill@firstunitedoakpark.com)).

## YOUTH PROGRAMS – FUJI (JR. HIGH) & FUSH (SR. HIGH)

The youth groups meet on Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 p.m. here at the church, September through mid-May. Contact Lydia Mulkey ([lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)) for more information.



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

Interim Lead Pastor: Phil Price – [pprice@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:pprice@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Associate Pastor for Education: Lydia Mulkey – [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)